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THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE CHRONICLE

VOLUME 25 NUMBER 16

THE EYES AND EARS OF COLUMBIA

MARCH 2, 1992

"PC" panel turns into shouting match

By John Cobb Washington
Staff Writer

A forum on "political correctness" held last Wednesday ended in a shouting match when students protested the contents of a column by *Columbia Chronicle* writer Steve Crescenzo.

The forum, sponsored by Students for a Better World, featured three panelists who discussed the implications of being "politically correct" in modern society.

The "PC" movement, according to panelist Lance Selfa, encourages sensitivity in language and attitude towards every segment of society. For example, "African American" is now considered a more desirable term than "black."

Selfa, a Socialist and author of the book "What's Behind the Attack on Political Correctness?" argued that the movement is being attacked by the establishment.

"Anyone who speaks out against injustice is labelled, silenced and censored," he said.



Julie Smith Staff Photographer

The calm before the storm. Panelists Davis Rubenstein, Margaret Power and Lance Selfa discuss "Political Correctness" in a forum held at the Hokin last Wednesday.

This opinion was seconded by fellow panelist Margaret Power, a Columbia College history instructor.

"The Bush administration, with its wealthy, elitist, white, male, sexist, homophobic, racist controllers of government policy, were the first to use the media to silence anyone who might object to racial harassment," she said.

Power went on to say that the infamous "Willie Horton" commercials, aired by the Bush campaign in 1988, "conveyed the message that black people have overcrowded the jail houses and are the entire reason for crime in the streets in the United States. From then on, any kind of racial harassment, violence against

women, gay bashing, denial of government money to students, violence against black people (Rodney King), is just alright in America.

"If anyone complains—they are not POLITICALLY CORRECT—a phrase Bush and his right-wing constituency, stole from those who were trying to fight oppression in America."

Davis Rubenstein, the third panelist and a sociologist from University of Illinois at Chicago, argued that no "conspiracy" to silence people exists.

"Anyone who believes there is one should study the history of the black peoples' movement and the women's rights movement from the 1960s to the 1990s. They would see that things have changed drastically," he said.

The meeting started to heat up when students lined up at a microphone to ask questions of the panelists. One student asked Rubenstein, "Do you think it is politically correct for the media to refer to people of color as 'minorities' which is offensive since 'minor' implies that there is someone 'major'?"

Rubenstein replied that when the Irish came to America, they also were discriminated against.

Rubenstein also was asked if he had read the column by Steve Crescenzo that some

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Columbia joins protest over state aid cuts

By Cris Henry
Staff Writer

Columbia College was one of several area schools protesting financial aid cuts at a Feb. 21 meeting of the Illinois Student Assistance Commission.

The meeting was called to discuss an 3 percent cut in addition to a planned 15 percent cut in the '92-'93 Monetary Assistance Program grant (MAP). The grant has already been cut 12 percent this year, jeopardizing many students' ability to stay in school.

According to John Olino, Columbia's director of financial aid, the commission was sympathetic to the views presented by the students, parents and financial aid officers, and did not support the 3 percent cut at this time.

The threat of yet another cut to the already precarious MAP grants sent students and financial aid officers scurrying for their telephones and fax machines to organize a support group to attend the ISAC meeting. The organizers wanted to make clear to the commission that the cuts could feasibly destroy reasonable access to higher education.

Roosevelt, IIT, DePaul, Loyola and the School of the Art Institute also sent representatives to the meeting. John Moore, associate dean of student affairs, and student Carmen Figarola represented Columbia.

"The students being hurt the most now are the neediest," said Connie Zonka, director of public relations at Roosevelt.

The commission will, however, accelerate the cut-off date for paperwork for the '92-'93 awards. Students expecting to receive the MAP grant next year should get their applications in quickly because the commission may move up the deadline.

The commission will resume its debate over the aid cuts in August.

Latino pols pitch for votes

By Andrew Rohan
Staff Writer

The Latino Alliance Committee met Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Ferguson Hall in a thunderous forum addressing the recent slash of student funds. The guest speakers were State Senator Miguel del Valle (D-Chicago), Alderman Jesus Garcia(22), and Maria Sallas, who hopes plans to be the first Latino female elected to the Illinois General Assembly.

Approximately 30 students attended the meeting, but, few for the question and answer session, where the speakers proposed their solutions to financial aid cutbacks.

Sallas, a nurse from the 22nd Ward, opened the forum and spoke on the importance of women in politics. Then she asked for support from women and students.

"I plan to be the first Hispanic female in the state legislature," Sallas said. "For us that is a big move. It's a hard battle to fight, especially when we have two great men like Miguel and Jesus who are very strong politicians, because the men have always had the forefront. I don't mind sharing this with them because they're great men. It's very hard to get into politics when you're a woman. So I need



Julie Smith Staff Photographer

Candidates address the issues during a student-sponsored forum.

your support as women."

Sallas shared her empathy with financially strapped students who are affected by the cutbacks. "I finished my master's degree in nursing administration as a mother. I know how hard it is. I will be there for you," she said.

Del Valle followed with a lengthy speech on the importance of education in Latino and minority communities before responding to the question of financial aid cutbacks.

He urged students to "arm yourselves with the

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News

Don't like your grades?

Here's how to get 'em changed. Page 2.

Features

"Second City" star is here.

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News

Musical chairs at Columbia

It's not a game. See page 3.

Jenny Dervin

I think we need someone in the presidential race that actually represents the voters. Call me crazy.

Therefore, I nominate Candidate Bob Zygotski. He's old enough (over 35), he's the right color (white) and he has enough money (millions). The only drawback is that he lives in my imagination, where you can't register to vote.

But other than that, he's the perfect candidate. At least I'd vote for him.

"Mr. Zygotski—"

Call me Bob.

"Ok, Bob. How would you jump start the economy?"

I wouldn't. What has the economy done for me lately? Nothing. Zip. So forget it. I'm not going to give tax breaks to businesses just because they haven't left the United States for cheaper overseas labor. They're dumb, is all. Let 'em rot.

"But what about American workers?"

Let them rot, too. I bought a Zenith television last year because I thought I should. Damn thing exploded last week and killed my cat. Screw 'em. I can be happy with a Sony.

"How do you feel about abortion?"

I don't feel anything about abortion. I never had one, and I never will. That isn't my choice, mind you. That's just the way my body works.

"Are you opposed to women having abortions?"

Why should I?

"Well..."

Give me a break.

"What about the depleting ozone?"

What about it?

"If you're elected president, will you implement an environmental program to clean up the air and water of this country?"

No.

"Why not?"

Because I think man will be wiped off the earth before he can truly destroy the planet. Until that time, I say we mine the mountains and drill in the oceans and build space stations on Mars. Have fun while you can, right?

"Do you have anything in mind for America's educational system?"

Yes I do.

"What would that be?"

I'm going to burn every single school house down to the ground.

"What would that accomplish?"

Well, if the little brats we call children really want to learn, then let them build their own schools. That way, they can learn a little carpentry. And maybe give up their summer holiday to build something they plan on using. If they build it, they will use it.

"Will you raise the tariffs on overseas products?"

No. I'd eliminate them all together. Let everything in. No one can buy anything anyway, so what the hell?

"What about the deficit?"

Ain't my problem.

"You don't plan on doing anything about it?"

Why should I? I didn't run that bill up so high. I think you have other presidents to thank for that. I think Reagan and Bush should pay it off. They did it.

"Should Americans expect big cuts in defense spending?"

If I'm elected president, they should expect an increase in production of war heads and missiles and all that groovy stuff we saw on television during the Gulf War. We can always sell it to Israel or the Brits. Maybe even donate it to some worthwhile causes around the world. Like the IRA. Or the Chinese students who want to try democracy. An arsenal like the one we have would guarantee freedom for all.

"Thank you for your time, Bob."

Yeah, sure. Anytime. You know where to find me.

De-graded students can protest

By Mark Giardina

Staff Writer

If you received a surprise over the break on your report card, namely a grade you feel is wrong, there is a procedure at Columbia to review the situation.

The student handbook outlines a four-step process. The first step is for the student to talk it over with the teacher. If that fails the next step is an appeal to the department chair. If the matter is still unresolved, the academic dean then steps in as a mediator. If all else fails, the dispute goes before a committee composed of the dean or his representative and two faculty members, who make the final decision.

The process may seem long but don't worry. Most disputes don't go beyond the teacher-student level and almost never go beyond the department.

Associate Dean of Students Steven Russell-Thomas, who is involved in the third step, said he handles one or two grade disputes every couple of years.

"I believe that everything should be resolved at its lowest level," Russell-Thomas said.

Before Thomas steps in, a student must show that the matter has been discussed with both the teacher and the department chair without a satisfactory resolution, said Russell-Thomas. The grade must also be out of line with the student's previous performance, for example, an A student who receives a D. He said going from a B to an A is not a dispute.

Russell-Thomas said that

when a grade dispute reaches him he consults separately with the student, teacher, and chairperson to reach a resolution.

Faculty members echo the feelings of Russell-Thomas on the matter of grade disputes. Dennis Rich, chairman of the management department said he has seen about three disputes in the year he has been here and has referred all of them back to the teacher level for resolution. According to Rich the majority of cases are solved at the teacher level to the satisfaction of both parties.

Andy Allegretti, acting chairman of the fiction writing department, also said he sees few disputes. He said 99 percent of the grade disputes are resolved at the teacher level.

Margaret Sullivan, advertising director in the marketing communication department, estimates that less than 2 percent of her students protest grades. She said most disputes are students who receive a "C" but think they deserve a "B". All are resolved within the department.

Most disputes are resolved, although the grade is not always changed, Sullivan said. She points out that a lot of the problems stem from the high number of part-time faculty at Columbia. More than half of the disputes are with teachers who are no longer at Columbia and may not be in the Chicago area. These cases are also handled within the department. Sullivan said she feels the best thing a student can do is dispute individual grades on tests

and assignments during the semester to make sure that they end up with the grade they want.

Sullivan also sees an underlying problem. "Students and teachers don't always share values of what constitutes an 'A,'" she said. Russell-Thomas agrees. He said that teachers should let the students know what the grade parameters are. To this end, the academic dean's office is conducting a series of workshops for faculty on the construction of syllabi. The workshops stress that teachers spell out in writing what percentage of the final grade each test and assignment is worth.

Russell-Thomas said attendance is another problem point. He gave as an example the "three absence policy". Does this mean on your third absence your grade is affected or you get three and on the fourth you grade is affected? When attendance is a factor in a final grade, he said, the teacher should be very specific in the syllabus and keep scrupulous records.

In the cases where a grade is changed the teacher who gave the original grade must file a form the records office.

According to Russell-Thomas there is no specific time limit on disputing a grade, but since grade changes must be submitted during the semester following the term when the original grade was received, any case of disputing a grade after that time would be weakened.

ALLIANCE

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ammunition of education to do battle in your neighborhoods and in the corporate sector. Do battle for the purpose of helping yourselves, not for the purpose of numero uno or lining your pockets, but for the purpose of helping our community. I'm not a politician.

I'm an elected official, and I've been there for five years, and I've worked hard on the issues of most concern today."

Del Valle expanded on the availability of also education for minority students.

"We've won many small battles on that front, but not the

war. Everyone should have the opportunity to arm themselves with the credentials in order to help elevate the status of our community," he said. "While we have an education governor, an education president, an education mayor, we had 15 out of 59 voting no in the Illinois Senate to cut financial aid, and I was one who voted no."

The senator's stand on resolving the financial aid cutbacks was finally addressed to an almost empty room during a question and answer period.

Del Valle proposed a higher State income tax for those who earn over \$100,000. Much of the revenue could be used to fund higher education, elementary,

and secondary education," he said. "But nobody wants to change the tax structure in an election year," he said.

Garcia, now running for the state Senate, closed the question and answer segment by using a statistic to make his point.

According to Garcia, "Only 2.3 percent of the people with bachelor's degrees are Latinos. That means our future is in jeopardy. Why? The trend in our country for the last 14 years is to keep rich people rich and poor people poor, and deny access to those poor people. Why? Those who have an education can better solve their problems, and can get better jobs."

FORUM

From page 1

felt made a "negative" reference to civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Rubenstein said "people should learn not to be so thin-skinned." A student then produced a copy of the *Chronicle* and read, in a loud voice, the portion of the editorial pertaining to King. The audience reacted by shouting, calling for demonstrations against the *Chronicle* to force them to "get rid" of Crescenzo.

Power and Selfa disagreed with Rubenstein and said a demonstration against the *Chronicle* should not be ruled out. Rubenstein countered by accusing Power and Selfa of defeating their own points of view by advocating censorship.

As the audience continued to shout for demonstrations to oust Crescenzo, the panel discussion deteriorated into a shouting match while moderators from Students for a Better World tried with some difficulty to bring the event to a close, saying into the mike, "Our time is up."

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illustration by Elana Spears

Columbia's Musical Chairs

By Tasha Knight
Staff Writer

In some departments, it may seem like Columbia's departments heads are playing a game of "musical chairs," but it's no laughing matter.

The science department has been looking for a new chair since last May, and four other departments are functioning with acting chairmen due to sabbaticals or leaves of absence.

In the science department, however, a new chairman could be in place by next fall, according to a member of the search committee.

The committee is now checking the references of a candidate it hopes to interview within the next two weeks.

"If we like this guy hopefully we'll have him in here by this fall," said Phil Klukoff, who is chairman of the English department and a member of the committee. He would not name the candidate.

Two candidates had already reached the interview stage but have been ruled out, according to Klukoff.

Academic Dean Sam Floyd now serves as the acting chairman of the department, with day-to-day affairs split between Associate Academic Dean Christine Somerville and Science Department Administrative Assistant John Meyer.

Meanwhile, the heads of three other departments, are on sabbatical leave, and in the film department the chairman is on indefinite leave. Sabbaticals are a paid year off that departments heads can use for rest, travel or research. They are eligible for sabbaticals after seven years' service.

Here is a rundown of the chairs temporarily away from their posts:

- Fiction writing chairman John Schultz has been on sabbatical leave since the fall of 1991. At first Betty Shiflett stepped in, and now Andrew Allegretti is the acting chair until Schultz comes back in August. Allegretti said that being the chairperson is "a lot of work, but many rewards."
- John Mulvany, chairman of the art and photography departments, is on sabbatical and will be back in June. Stephen Smith is the acting chair for photography and Marlene Lipinski is the acting chair for the art department.
- Ed Morris, chairman the television department, is on sabbatical and he'll be back in June. Luke Palermo is the acting chairman.
- Film chairman Anthony Loeb has been on indefinite leave since November for improper conduct. Acting chairs for this department are Doreen Bartoni and Chap Freeman. Executive Vice President Bert Gall has said that he's not sure when Loeb will be coming back.

Activism, alive and kicking

By Tariq M. Ali
Staff Writer

Activism on campus often conjures up pictures of hippies smoking dope at sit-ins.

Well, times have changed, and so has activism on campuses, especially at Columbia.

"Five years ago there were only about six student groups and there was no Student Organization Council," said Hermann Conaway, dean of students. Groups were virtually non-existent because there was no funding organization to support them, he said.

Today there are more than 24 student groups at Columbia, and more are waiting in the wings to get status approval from the Student Organization Council.

Four of the groups—the Latino Alliance; the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance; the African-American Alliance; and Students for a Better World can be construed as activist organizations yet each group has its own ideas

about activism and what the word activism means.

"I've known about Columbia forever," said Christina Harris, president of the Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Alliance. "My father was involved in activism, right outside the door." This school was known as "the" radical school in Chicago and its reputation has not changed, but in actuality the students have become more conservative, which in turn changes everything at the school.

Harris' father was not a student at Columbia, she said, but was involved with activist groups who protested around the Columbia campus during the 1968 Democratic Convention, Harris said. Her father also knew Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and worked with King in the civil rights movement.

The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance has approximately five active members, and about 30 students show up at the group's meetings. But the number of students "fluctuates incredibly," Harris said, because people tend not to come during finals week.

Carmen Figueroa and Bienvenido Acevedo Jr., president and vice president of the Latino Alliance said they believe that '60s radical activism, does not work anymore. "That doesn't even happen anymore, not at Columbia, not in any other university or institution. If people want to voice their opinions, they hold a rally or a forum," Figueroa said.

When people came out rioting and acting up in the 60s, the only outcome was violence and people would get injured, Acevedo said.

"We believe that the way to go about things is to hold a forum like we did today (see story page 1), where you bring up your issues to the guest officials, you state your questions and they state their answers," he said.

The Latino Alliance has about 30 active members and almost all of the members show up at the meetings, according to Figueroa. Both Figueroa and

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Preserving culture

By D.L. Hinton
Staff Writer

In the 1500s, before the arrival of Europeans, over two million indigenous Native Americans, speaking 300 different languages, lived throughout North America.

Today, Columbia journalism instructor Rose Economou is helping to bridge the gap that has divided Native Americans and white men for so many centuries. She is teaching Native Americans how they can share their culture with outsiders through film and video.

Her Native American Film Project, which she began more than two years ago with several other distinguished filmmakers, is designed to show Native American students how they can use film and video techniques to document their cultural activities, preserving them for future generations.

The participants are students of tribal colleges located on 27 reservations throughout the U.S. The motivation for the project came to her after she realized that the cultural differences existing in the tribes were unique, and that the native languages and customs of these tribes should be kept alive



for posterity.

"What white people don't know about Native Americans is that each tribe has a different religion and a different set of values," Economou said.

However, preservation isn't the only purpose of the project. According to Economou the filmmakers hope to dispel the negative stereotypes of contemporary Native Americans, build individual self-esteem and regain tribal pride.

"When we look at the Native American, we see him as a major historical figure, someone who existed in the past," Economou said. "What we are trying to talk about is the positive side of Native Americans, which is why some folks are trying to keep the languages and customs alive. That has become our mission."

Working in conjunction with the Native American College Fund (NACF) and the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, the en-

tire project includes a one-hour film, to be scheduled for broadcast on PBS, media workshops led by film and video artists, and one-on-one tutorial sessions with students producing their own "video diaries."

They also plan a comprehensive video archive as part of a central video library system allowing reservations to share films and documents, while preserving their heritage on videocassette.

A totem pole designed with several television monitors will act as a traveling video sculpture.

A production journal highlighting moments from the project in glossy, full color photos with articles written by participants, will also be included.

Further funding for the three-year project is expected from

the Ford Foundation. Economou said that even though it has taken her a year to write and solicit the proposal, the first year of production alone is estimated at \$1 million, with filming and instruction to begin this summer.

Right now, Economou said she is hoping to recruit the services of film and video instructors at Columbia, and will soon accept volunteers to take part in the project.

All proceeds from the project will be donated to NACF, to be used as scholarships for Native Americans.



Native Americans learning to preserve their culture through the modern techniques of film and video.



Alumnus from Second City shares her style

TEACHER PROFILE

By Charlotte Hunt
Staff Writer

I sat in the Second City lobby waiting for Fran Adams to arrive. It was 3:40 in the afternoon. I wondered if maybe I'd gone to the wrong place. But 10 minutes later Adams put my

worries at ease as she rushed up the stairs to greet me.

For those of you who hang out in the 11th Street campus or are frequent comedy club goers, Adams' name may ring a bell. She has been a member of The Second City Chicago for five years and a teacher in Columbia's Theater/Music Department for two years. In fact, Adams graduated with honors from Columbia in 1986.



FRAN ADAMS

For this graduate, Columbia helped a dream become a reality.

A course taught by theater/music department chairman Sheldon Patinkin helped to alter Adams' life. Patinkin's class required that the students participate in a major audition. For Adams' the audition happened to be for the Second City. The day after the audition, Adams received a call back and became one of the 20 final prospects (90 women had auditioned). By the following day, she was hired as an understudy for Second City that was Jan. of 1987.

"I couldn't believe it. I hadn't even expected to pass the audition!" she said. In April, she joined the Second City Touring Company and went on tour until October. Along with several other members in 1987, Adams helped found The Second City Northwest, where she performed for 2 1/2 years.

As a student at DePaul University, Adams attended the Goodman School of Drama for three years. In 1984 she transferred to Columbia's Theater department. Adams found that Goodman's program sharply contrasted with Columbia's and she knew she had found her niche.

Adams said she discovered that Columbia's approach to theater was open and more relaxed, with an opportunity for a greater degree of expression and experimentation. "At Goodman, the practices are

more rigid, disciplined and a structured method," she explained.

"It was so different at (Columbia). The classes were great. It was really hard at Goodman. A lot of kids got discouraged and dropped out of the program and perhaps turned away from their dreams of acting prematurely."

At Columbia, Adams said, she learned that there is no right or wrong way. She also said that "the instructors at DePaul were so out-of-touch" because many had been out of the business for sometime. "It was virtually impossible for teachers to relate to the way students felt or, to the things they may have been going through, as aspiring actors and actresses, trying to enter the business."

On stage in "Economy of Errors," Second City Mainstage's recent running show, Adams is a humorous attention-grabber, bringing to life a variety of characters ranging from a kooky, mid-American housewife to a Spanish seductress in a 1940s night club.

When she's not performing at Second City, Adams' schedule is always filled. She teaches Improvisational Techniques at Columbia on Tuesdays and Thursday. At the Second City Training Center, Adams teaches a "bright and promising" group of 15 young, up-and-coming actors and actresses. Her teaching technique is simple—no tests and no homework. Her style is one that

encourages you to relax, enjoy, and get involved.

The students come to the training center from all over the country—New York, Virginia, St. Louis, Ohio, and one from Britain, who after seeing the touring company, came to the U.S. to study at the center. The sessions are filled with exercises to get the mind and senses going. Rollicking games such as "Duck, Duck, Goose," a mock football game, and the "hokey poky" were part of an improvisational drill. Often the students from the center are asked to audition to join Second City.

The Second City, which has two other locations—Toronto and Los Angeles—launched the careers of an array of well known actors, such as John Belushi, Martin Short, Mike Myers, Shelley Long, Joan Rivers and Columbia's very own, Sheldon Patinkin.

If you would like to see Adams and other Second City cast members in action, call (312) 337-3992 for showtime hours.



Instructor exhibits heritage

TEACHER PROFILE



By Alison Pryor
Staff Writer

A strong, black arm stretches out to hold the head of a young man, who has K-I-N-G shaved into his head, while a third man looks on.

After approximately 10 years of documenting urban street life in various parts of the world, Stephen Marc is showing his body of work, entitled *The Trans-Atlantic Experience: Photographs By Stephen Marc*, from February 1 to March 21 at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St.

Marc, full-time photography teacher and coordinator of the photography department's graduate program, traveled to Jamaica, Ghana and parts of England to discover more about his heritage. He said he wanted to see for himself places that were instrumental

in the African Slave Trade.

"There is a common denominator with the places I visited," Marc said. "Being in Ghana felt like home to me."

Home for Marc is actually the South Side of Chicago, where he grew up.

"Yet," Marc said, "every place I traveled to was so diverse in its own way."

Marc illustrates the similarities clearly in his work by exhibiting photographs where viewers might confuse the locations unless they consult the wall labels.

Marc's students say they love him, and that he is their mentor, because they know he really cares, wants them to learn and is passionate about what he does. They see this as a major inspiration, according to Melissa Malm, Photo II student.

The Cultural Center is located at 78 East Washington.



A glimpse of faculty member Stephen Marc's photo exhibit currently on display at the Chicago Cultural Center.

Kafka: From the maker of "sex, lies and videotape"

MOVIE REVIEW



By Jim Hemphill
Correspondent

In 1989, first-time director Steven Soderbergh stormed into the American film industry with "sex, lies, and videotape," an intimate character study that was the independent success story of that year.

After such an auspicious start, Soderbergh could have made "Citizen Kane" as his second feature and people still would have said, "Well, it's not as good as 'sex, lies, and videotape.'"

Perhaps realizing that any film he did would inevitably be compared to "sex, lies, and videotape," Soderbergh has chosen to follow it up with "Kafka," a film which is completely different in tone and style.

Both of Soderbergh's films deal with themes of isolation and deception, but "Kafka" communicates its ideas in the form of a conventional genre film, giving Soderbergh a completely different means to what is essentially the same end.

The story of "Kafka" concerns an aloof young writer (Jeremy Irons) who may or may not be the celebrated author Franz Kafka. Kafka works as a

clerk in a huge office in which he is one of a hundred—the employees are all anonymous drones of whom we learn very little.

Kafka's job seems to offer very little satisfaction to him, and cinematographer Walt Lloyd (the master lensman behind "To Sleep With Anger") creates an extremely dreary atmosphere through the bleak black and white photography.

The bleak, suffocating nature of the film is reinforced by Soderbergh's almost excessively composed frames.

Whereas "sex, lies, and videotape" was characterized by stripped down images in which little attention was given to anything but the characters, "Kafka" is a film in which Soderbergh fills the frame with objects and architecture which serve to press in on the central character throughout the film.

In "sex, lies, and videotape," the characters were always given breathing room; here, every shot contributes to an overwhelming sense of claustrophobia.

As soon as we are introduced to Kafka's work place (where his superiors are played by Alec Guinness and Joel Grey), we learn that a friend of Kafka's has been murdered. This murder is the event which propels the action of the film, as Kafka tries to solve his friend's murder with the help of a coworker

played by Theresa Russell.

While it may be too early in Soderbergh's career to make generalizations about his methods as a director, it's probably safe to assume that he is as much a film buff and historian as he is a filmmaker. "Sex, lies, and videotape," found its influences in the idiosyncratic character studies of the '70s, such as "Five Easy Pieces" and "Carnal Knowledge."

In "Kafka," Soderbergh turns to German expressionism Orson Welles, and particularly Carol Reed's "The Third Man" (if it was possible to sue for visual plagiarism, the makers of "The Third Man" would have one hell of a case against Soderbergh).

Yet to dismiss Soderbergh as simply the filmic equivalent of a parrot would be to ignore that his films do indeed have a great deal of substance.

While some of the style in "Kafka" may be lifted from Soderbergh's heroes, the themes of isolation, deception, and alienation are communicated with an astonishing clarity. "Kafka" offers conclusive evidence that Soderbergh's first success was not a fluke—a major directing talent has arrived.



Jeremy Irons as Kafka

JUST A THOUGHT

...es that could be famous if the
...le who said them were:

...y do people ask if the elevator is
...g up or down when there is a light
...ator?"

—AmiLah Shon, Journalism

...umbia College is like beatnik soup!"

—Chris Cashin, music

...letters were sent in and time is
...pt but the Chronicle still hasn't
...ered the question, "Who's the male
...ing around Columbia like a slut?"

—Pamela Rose, film

...umbia's attendance is as follows: too
...y Dukes, or should I say Blue-Devils
...d with minorities who want to become
...ls. But one thing you will never find is a
...Devil hiding in a BUSH or a Rebel
...orting OPERATION PUSH."

—The Mystery Man, liberal ed.

...ompile by Charles D. Edwards
...se submit your thoughts about our
...college to:

The Columbia Chronicle

m. 802 in the Wabash building.



LETTERS

To The Editor

Stickin' It To Steve

Steve Crescenzo's pathetic attempts at shock journalism have failed.

As a juvenile Mike Royko - Richard Roeper - Morton Downey, Jr. wanna-be, he succeeds merely in sounding like a sniveling, whining minority/activist group championing his own cause: Steve Crescenzo's Unidimensional Universe of Recreant Yammering (SCUURVY).

Please don't misunderstand me. I was not in the least offended by anything Crescenzo said. I hope no one who read his column (*Chronicle*, Feb. 17) wasted their time or energy getting upset by his clamorous ego stroking.

Crescenzo clearly is a bored, adolescent college student who exploits the idea of free press, as well as his so-called prestige as a columnist in a dinky college newspaper, to jack off in front of his peers.

Reading between the lines, we can all plainly see that Crescenzo isn't intelligent enough to write about anything intelligent. He isn't worthy of the title journalist because what he does is not journalism "It's masturbation."

Steve, it doesn't take guts for a dope like you to talk about militant blacks, animal rights freaks and a sniveling band of female crybabies in print. What does take guts is admitting you have little, if any, real journalistic talent, and your prospects in the real world are dim at best.

Meg Evans
Sophomore
Journalism

In regards to Steve Crescenzo's Club (*Chronicle*, Feb. 17) I'd like to make a suggestion if he's truly interested in the exchanging of opinions or rational thought--Think before you write, Steve.

Phrases like "...kick a little

ass, ...we'd own everything, ...boot some people out, real women..., ...lesbos, ...knocked up, ...anti-white blacks and ...whitey," provide enough information to us readers that you are truly grappling with, if I may use your terminology, becoming "Dukehead white supremacist idiots who want a pure race."

If you are not bold enough to confront your own racism and sexism, Steve, then it would be wise for you to cease projecting it onto your readers.

Tina LaPorta
Alumni

This letter is in response to Crescenzo's Club column in the February 24, 1992 issue.

I would like to state that racism was expressed as an opinion in the column, which it is not, it is a fact. Racism exists everyday in this society, and it is deep rooted. Black people don't have to look to hard to find racism, because it stares them in the face everyday like a bad dream they wish they could just wake up out of.

It is easy to say that racism is a made-up when one has never experienced it. To dismissed an expression by an oppressed individual on racism, that he or she has experienced is ignorant and irresponsible, not to mention insensitive.

So my advice to you is to take off your rose-colored goggles, and put on your tinted racism goggles, so that you can see the world as the rest of us see it.

Deborah Banks
Broadcast Journalism

Race-Based Unfair

First, I want to thank Cris Henry for proving that David Duke and Pat Buchanan aren't

the only ones in the public eye who are creating a smoke screen around their racism.

But her article on the support of race-based scholarships (*Chronicle*, Feb. 24) was so one-sided.

Where were the views from people against race-based scholarships? Couldn't bother to get both sides of the picture?

I'm sick of so-called civil rights activists raging against their minority status being taken away when it's to their advantage to be a minority.

I always thought people like Martin Luther King wanted equality not superiority.

Things like scholarships based on race, or employment based on job quotas, reduce everyone to token skin colors. Opportunities should be based on talent and intellect, not what color you are.

I am a male WASP. But I grew up in a city (Waukegan) where I was an ostracized minority.

My ancestors were hated when they came from Sweden. I know it's not the same as being forced to America on a slave ship, but the point is *hard work and talent* made myself and my family a part of the community not any Swedish-based favoritism.

Maybe Cris, as well as John Olin, should give that route a try.

Trevor Curtis
Broadcast Journalism
Senior

MAP Cuts Run Deep

I would like to personally thank Gov. Jim Edgar for cutting the MAP Illinois grant.

As a student on a limited budget, like many other students at Columbia, I was greatly affected by this cut.

Instead of receiving \$1,750 per semester I will only receive around \$1,550. This may not

seem like a lot of money to some people but it is to me; I work only part-time and support myself.

The additional money was to be returned to me after my loan was figured in, and I was going to use the extra it to pay bills.

Gov. Edgar shouldn't cut educational financing as a way to balance the state budget. Education is the backbone of American society.

Education is also a way to a higher standard of living, and this country will need educated people to lead the country.

By making these cuts, Edgar is only cheating himself. College students in Illinois will be at a disadvantage compared to students in other states.

Due to a lack of funding in Illinois, some people will not be able to even attend college.

Why can't we be like other states, such as California, where the cost to attend a state college is almost free to residents.

The Governor should find other places to make cuts such as his own salary.

Stephanie Stanton Schuss

An Open Letter To The Students Of Columbia College

I, Sandra Stone, would like to thank the students of Columbia College.

You probably don't know me from Adam, however, you feed me every time I'm outside.

Sometimes you even take time out to talk, and I would like to say Thank you.

I'm homeless, and the shelters don't let me stay too long. I sleep on the train, but there's the weekend when the police don't let the homeless sleep on the train.

You wonderful people feed me and give me enough cash to get a \$23 room.

I know now that anybody could be homeless. Two years ago I was married, and had five children. Now I'm divorced, with no high school diploma and no address, so no one will look at my job applications. I desperately need a job, but this letter isn't about that.

My heart and my vocabulary are not big enough to say just how great you all are. 1,000 thanks and my love goes out to you.

We homeless are people, too. Thank you for talking even if you can't help. God bless you. I wish I was in your shoes.

Sandra

Vote Twice, in the Chicago tradition.

Your first chance is in the *Chronicle* Straw Poll. Select the presidential candidate of your choice. Tuesday, Mar. 10, in the Wabash lobby.

Results to be published in the *Chronicle*.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Columbia students voice your opinions. We're saving a space for you. Bring your opinion pieces and letters to the attention of the editor at the *Chronicle* office, room 802-Wabash, by 5:00p.m. Tuesdays for possible inclusion in the following week's publication.

CHRONICLE

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The *Chronicle* is the official student run newspaper of Columbia College. It is published weekly during the school year, and distributed on Monday. Views expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of the advisor or the college.

ACTIVISM

From page 3

Acevedo have been leaders of the Latino Alliance since the fall of 1991.

Robb Perry, president of the African-American Alliance, said he has also been associated with various American communist organizations. Perry said he spoke at a 1990 rally before the Persian Gulf War with the Revolutionary Communist Party. Perry said that even though he participated in the rally, he is not a communist.

Perry and Amilashon, the secretary of the African American Alliance, have headed the group since last fall. They have 30 active members; attendance at meetings varies, depending on the issue being addressed, Amilashon said.

Leslie Brown, a coordinator for Students for a Better World for the past two years, said it is harder to motivate people these days to join because most people believe they can't do much to change society.

"I see Columbia as a liberal moderate school and not a radical school, where people want to take a middle-of-the-road

approach in changing things," she said.

The group has 20 active members, Brown said.

The groups said they have seen positive results, even though attendance at meetings is sometimes small. Students for a Better World was successful in installing a recycling program for Columbia College, according to Angi Williams. The Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Alliance held a successful AIDS awareness day last semester, including a discussion panel in the Hokin Center and information on AIDS that included free condoms.

The Latino and African American Alliances say they have made students more politically and socially aware by planning discussions and bringing in speakers, ranging from poets to historians to politicians.

The African-American Alliance brought in historian Ashra Kwesi last year to talk about African Judeo-Christianity and culture. The Latino Alliance brought in poet Carlos Cumpian, who spoke about Mexican Indians and Chicanos, and Jose Lopez, a historian who talked about the natives in America at

the turn of the century.

The League of Black Women held a series of panel discussions in the Hokin Center, the week of February 17.

Eugene Daniels, a management major who is chairman of the Student Organization Council, said Columbia now has more groups in greater numbers that have created good social and political programs to address issues.

"Students here are not afraid to express whatever they believe in," he said. "They go through the halls and talk to other students and try to get them involved in activities of a student group. Columbia students have been at the forefront, in many instances, such as the Persian Gulf War, in terms of dealing with critical issues in society," he said.

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ATTENTION STUDENTS!

Mark your calendar with these important Career events:

- 3/20 Music Career Workshop x620
- 4/9 Careers Serving Ethnic Markets..... x344
- 4/11 "Challenge the Future"—Career Information for Minority Students..... x280
- 4/23 Marketing Communication Career Day x344
- 4/24 Theater Career Workshop x620
- 4/30 Radio/Sound Career Day x284
- 5/7 Panel Discussion on the Art of Freelancing . x282
- 5/14 Careers in Writing..... x344
- 5/21 Film/Video Career Day x620

For more information contact the *Placement Office*, or the appropriate extension.

STEVE

Crescenzo's Club

I think I should probably define a few terms. **Irony** is defined in Webster's Dictionary as an expression marked by a deliberate contrast between apparent and intended meaning.

Satire is defined as a work that attacks human vice or foolishness using the above mentioned irony.

Sarcasm is defined as a sharply mocking or ironic remark.

These concepts can be pretty confusing, so after some hunting around, I managed to dig up an example of when I tried to use those three things. It happened in a column I wrote last week. I was putting down Public Nuisance, the rap group that recently—on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, I think—came out with a song and a video that portrayed members of the band gunning down all the white leaders of Arizona because that state does not observe the national holiday.

Call me crazy, but I happen to think that portraying a message like that, when they know a good portion of their audience is inner-city black kids with access to weapons and nothing to lose, is despicable. I saw what they were doing as human vice and foolishness, and I set out to attack it with a little satire.

So after I described what Public Hypocrites did, I added, parenthetically, that they did "Exactly what the good Dr. King would have done if he was still around—violent, twisted S.O.B. that he was, right?"

Whoa....King violent and twisted? Even people who know little about King know that his life was based on non-violent protest. Calling him violent and twisted is like calling Gandhi a homicidal maniac, or labeling Mother Teresa a sadistic, selfish bitch.

My remarks were meant to call attention to how degrading it is to King's memory for Public Scumbags to pollute his views so that they can make a buck and draw attention to themselves.

Dr. King non-violently tried to overcome dehumanizing segregation, unfair Jim Crow laws and unabashed hatred against him and his people. He tried to do it because he had a dream that people of all races could live together in harmony. In a lot of ways, he succeeded, but it cost him his life.

For a bunch of no-talent punks like Public Morons—who are millionaires many times over, who live in Beverly Hills, who don't know the pain of the ghetto or a fraction of the sting of real racism that King lived with every day of his life—for them to pull a stunt like this in King's name is disgusting. And I think if King WERE alive today, even he might set aside his pacifist philosophy and slap those jerks in the head.

If anyone thinks that's racist, then they are bigger boneheads than I ever thought.

That's everything I wanted to say about Public Idiots. However, my space being limited, I tried to do it with satire, because if you use satire properly, you can save a lot of space.

A lot of people didn't pick up on it. One obvious scholar (attention folks, this is more sarcasm) wrote that "Dr. King was one of the finest human beings ever to live and for some piss-ass punk like yourself to make a blasphemous accusation like that makes me infuriated."

I didn't get it. My fault? I don't know. Any time the words twisted and violent are used in the same sentence as Dr. King's name, a red flag should go up and you should take a careful look at what is being said.

That didn't happen, however. What did happen was a possible protest, a petition, and in some highly intellectual (sarcasm again!) circles the possibility of bashing my head in was brought up. I think I know why. It all comes down to interpreting things the way you want to, regardless of what common sense tells you. It's funny how these things work out, but that was exactly the point of last week's column—that too many African Americans are too quick to cry racism when there is none because it's the easy way out.

My point couldn't have been proven any better. So many people were willing to denounce me as a racist without bothering to look into it, because it's the easy way out—and the noble, politically correct thing to do. I was even called a racist just because I hate rap music. Never mind that I love reggae, blues and especially Motown, all of which sprung from the black culture. If I put down rap, I must hate blacks. It's that simple for some people.

Probably the most disturbing thing to come out of all of this is that one person told me that I had no right to even talk about racism, or King, or rap, or ghettos, or anything, because I was white, and just didn't know.

So while it's okay for Clarence Page, the black editorialist for the *Chicago Tribune* to put down Public Enemy (which he did, much better and much harsher than I ever did), it's wrong for me to do it because I'm white.

That's a load of crap, and I'm not buying it. As long as I have this space, I'll say whatever I feel needs to be said. You can call me racist, sexist, or even an "adolescent sophomoric writer who uses my prestige of a columnist at a dinky school newspaper to jack off for my peers, with no hope of ever making it in the real world,"—as one woman very nicely wrote. It just doesn't matter.

If you don't like what I write, write a letter, or a lengthy opinion piece. I promise my editor will print it. Or come on up and I'll buy you a shot and a beer if I have any money that day, and we'll talk it over. All I ask is that you read very carefully before making blanket accusations that serve no purpose other than to satisfy your over-inflated sense of self-righteousness. I think we'll all be better off.

B O O K I T . . .

Monday - 2 You still have a chance to catch *Daughters of the Dust* at the School of the Art Institute Film Center, Columbus Drive and Jackson Boulevard, at 6 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. The film is directed by Julie Dash and is rich in the traditions of the mind and hearts as well as in the rituals and beliefs carried from Africa to a new world. For ticket prices and additional showings call (312)443-3733 during regular business hours.

Tuesday - 3 Sally Field stars in the film *Norma Rae* tonight at 5 p.m. at the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., in celebration of Women in History Film Festival. Admission is free.

Wednesday - 4 Come hang out at the Cabaret Lounge, Avalon Nite Club, 959 W. Belmont, for the Celebrity Jam Nite with Downtown Scotty Brown & Co. Live rock music for \$6 and a 9:30 p.m. show.

Thursday - 5 Let the Hokin Center, 623 S. Wabash, touch your heart with the movie *Ghost* today at 4 p.m.

For a night of sitting down and watching others dance the night away, Jan Erkert & Dancers, head on over to the Dance Center of Columbia College, 4730 N. Sheridan Rd., tonight, tomorrow or Saturday for the 8 p.m. show. Tickets are \$12. For more information (312)271-7928.

Friday - 6 Need to escape early semester stress? Well Columbia College's Radio Department and radio station, WCRX, has just the answer. Tonight at 6 p.m., in the basement of the 600 S. Michigan building, the Underground Cafe, CRX's *The Underground* Five jam until 1 a.m. playing all types of music. Tickets are \$3 with Columbia IDs, \$4 with CRX flyers, or \$5 for anyone else.

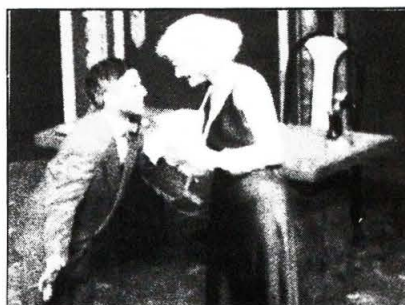
The Fluid Measure Performance Company performs two collaborative works and three pieces created independently by company members in a full evening of new works at Links Hall, 3435 N. Sheffield. Starting tonight and run this weekend and March 13-15. Tickets are \$7 and all shows begin at 8 p.m.

Saturday - 7 Gemini continues running at the Puszh Studios, 3829 N. Broadway, this weekend and next. Gemini is a Close Call Production's comedy about a 21-year old boy searching for his sexual identity. Get there when it starts, 8 p.m. and any tickets are \$8.

Sunday - 8 In celebration of National Women's History Month, Chicago area groups, namely the Emergency Clinical Defense Coalition, are sponsoring an 11:30 a.m. march to celebrate the less known women in a Women in Action march. It starts at Oz Park, on the corners of Webster, Lincoln and Larrabee, and ends at Aetna Plaza.

Throughout the walk there will be varied speakers and independent performances.

ONGOING Throughout the month of March and April, all you TV buffs can check out the Museum of Broadcast Communications, 800 S. Wells St., TV Treasures: The MBC Archives. Museum hours are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, noon - 5 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The museum is closed on Monday and Tuesday. Two dollar donations are suggested for students or free to Museum members. For further information, (312)987-1500.



Hollywood in the 20s comes to life on the stage of the Getz Theater, 72 E. 11th St., in "Once in a Lifetime." For ticket information call (312)663-9465. The show runs until March 8.

MY DADDY SAYS...MY DADDY SAYS...MY DADDY SAYS...MY DADDY SAYS...MY DADDY SAYS...MY

Dear My Daddy Says,

I've never been one to boast or brag, but I am cursed with what every man wishes. Although at times it's not entirely too bad, it often becomes a disadvantage, almost bordering on a curse. I've been given the gift of hugeness. Entering a Jewel or Dominick's has its drawbacks, especially when I'm in the hot dog, bologna and polish sausage aisle. Especially when I'm at that particular store with someone who has just experienced my gift n' curse. They often pick up a sausage and jokingly say, "Hey didn't we already meet? If you are curious as to its size: excited it's 10 to 11 inches, unexcited seven to eight inches. It's becoming a burden when you know the only reason girls want you around to go out and have a few beers is because they want to see what all the talk is about.

I'm almost ashamed of having to write this but it's getting to be almost unbearable...please help!

Signed, Dried up Brick

Dear Dried up Brick,

My Daddy Says he hates to disappoint you, but an 11-inch erected penis is not huge by some standards.

The size, length or diameter of a penis has absolutely nothing to do with the quality of the sex act, and most importantly, pleasing your mate.

So don't be ashamed and don't call it a gift n' curse because there are many men that would make your 11 incher look like a pea prick.

Daddy Says remember: smart girls don't brag about anything they plan to keep. Their gossip indicates that they are merely amazed by the size, not the performance.

And as for the women who are snickering behind your back, they're only inexperienced little girls.

Address your letters to: My Daddy Says, Rm. 802 Wabash

Face Value:

What is your opinion about the financial aid cuts?

Lisa Adds

Staff Photographer



Sidney E. Miller
Liberal Arts
Senior

It's already difficult to get an education because of the cost of tuition. To further cut financial aid would be like taking food from the homeless. Why let all of these minds starve?

Renato Petterino
Film
Senior

Education is and has been the escape goat for political foul ups for decades. Cutting financial aid for higher education is a greater tragedy, who will read? Action must be taken to guarantee the right to higher education.

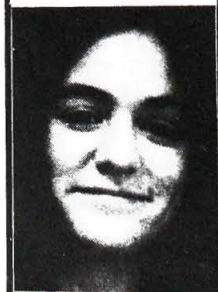


Sheri-Lynn Thompson
Music
Senior

I hate it, I hope students will be able to afford college with the new cuts back. I'm glad that this is my last semester. What students need are more student aid via grants, loans, and scholarships.

Lynn Mutchler
Theater
Freshman

I think it's horrible because lots of students including myself won't be able to afford to come back, or even start. A question for the State of Ill.: What's more important, holding funds or keeping students in school?



Andrea Dimauro
Photography
Freshman

I think it is really awful that they would even think of cutting back funds for anyone to go to school. We have a right to go to school and if needed, we should be supplied with the funds when in need.

Keisha Toney
Dance
Freshman

I guess Mr. Thompson thinks that college students are filthy rich and a cut in financial aid wouldn't matter. Well, I think someone needs to cut the state money down to let them see how it feels.

