

the Seahawk

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Clinton's words out of touch with reality

by Pamela White
Colorado Daily U. of Colorado

By all accounts President Bill Clinton delivered a fine speech at the Democratic Convention in Los Angeles. Too bad it had nothing to do with reality.

"My fellow Americans, are we better off today than we were eight years ago? You bet we are," Clinton said to applause.

He must have been referring to himself, his family or perhaps rich white people in general. Globally speaking, we're worse off than we were in 1992.

Clinton brought us NAFTA, and he brought us GATT, both globalization nightmares. He brought us welfare "reform," filling urban homeless shelters with poor women and children. He squandered our best chance in decades to build a system of universal health care. He caved to the timber industry, allowing the so-called salvage timber rider through. He failed to bring us any kind of sustainable energy program.

For a man who campaigned on environmentalism and human rights, Clinton has been an abject failure. Some people, however, are better off under Clinton. They're the same people who will be better off under Al Gore or Dubya.

The fat cats are fatter. The lords of industry, whether that industry is war or wood pulp or widgets, are throwing their support behind the two-headed Republicrat monster because they know their position is secure no matter who wins.

"Remember, when you think about me, keep putting people first," Clinton told the crowd in an absurd moment of self-aggrandizement and faux nostalgia.

This was absurd for two reasons. First, whenever we think about Clinton, we'll think about Monica and blowjobs and stained blue dresses and abused cigars, not service to the people. Second, the "people" Clinton refers to are those he has failed — the poor, the medically

indigent, workers, youth, drug abusers, minorities, women.

In fact, while Clinton spoke, "the people" were on the street being gassed and shot with rubber bullets. Most were peaceful demonstrators who were gathered to hear Rage Against the Machine and Ozomatli perform. Some were young children. Some were elderly. But nowhere in his speech did Clinton mention them or their concerns, which range from globalization to deforestation to poverty to animal rights. It was as if they didn't exist.

But they do exist. More than 50,000 converged on Seattle. Some 20,000 gathered in Washington, D.C. They joined hands again in Philadelphia, and yet again in Los Angeles. Each time, they were met by a brutal police response, as hundreds of non-violent protesters were made to pay for the violence of a few with pepper spray, beatings, twisted arms, and false arrests.

A worthwhile Democrat, a man who is remembered for his contributions to humanity, once said, "Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable." DNC organizers had the audacity to display his photograph and parade his daughter on stage as if resurrecting his ghost could somehow give the today's Democrats moral authority.

It's pretty clear, however, that few Democrats remember John F. Kennedy's words about revolution. It would be ironic of those words were to become the Democratic Party's epitaph.

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Editorial Viewpoint...

During the 1999-2000 academic year, 80 percent of all UNCW students received some sort of financial aid. This equals roughly 8,000 students who are looking to Financial Aid services to "show them the money." However, unlike NFL Sports Agent Jerry Maguire, UNCW Financial Aid officers are unfortunately not receiving large commission from the student loans and grants that they help students receive. This factor however, should not reflect in the poor manner in which many students are treated and spoken to when dealing with the Financial Aid office for answers to questions and concerns about their deferments and loans.

However, if the majority of all students receiving financial aid would take the initiative to educate themselves to the whole financial aid process, then perhaps many stressful trips and phone calls to the Financial Aid office could be eliminated. Every UNCW student receives a Financial Aid package which contains a lot of fine print. However, this is your money that this fine print is talking about. READ IT!! It is not put there to fill white space. It is put there so we know what our responsibilities are as students and what we need to do to ensure that we are receiving the proper amount of aid or loans. Skipping over this important step can lead to the potential dropping of classes, or extensive delays of those ever so important refund checks.

Let's look at the reality. Many students do not read the fine print, and in some cases classes are dropped, and refund checks are withheld from students for what is hopefully only a small period of time.

These situations are very frustrating for students who are attempting to earn an education and are having to jump through too many hoops to do so. When

students miss important paper work because it is mailed to a previous address, or is mailed three days before the return deadline, it is very hard for all financial aid deadlines to be met. This can be tragic for a student when it leads to the dropping of their classes, especially if they don't even know their classes are gone until the day before classes start. And forget getting those classes back. Now that UNCW has peaked to just over 10,000 students, adding classes is at an all time high of impossible.

Students not complying with deadlines (which in some cases is not the fault of the student) in most cases is because the student casually skipped over a critical step in the process. However, it is unacceptable when students suffer at the hands of the Financial Aid office because their fax machine is broken. UNCW is a state institution which, thanks to tax payers, has hundreds of fax machines on the campus. When a student's classes are dropped because an essential fax from a loan company cannot be received because the time was not taken to find a replacement fax machine, something is wrong.

Students at UNCW deserve to be treated with the same amount of respect that Jerry Maguire showed his clients. We are in fact the reason this institution exists, and when they are mistreated and misspoken to, their academic career here at UNCW suffers. Then again, if students could take some incentive and read the fine print in their financial aid package, cross all the T's and dot all the I's, then maybe 8,000 students wouldn't be lined up outside the financial aid office the first week of school. But the Financial Aid office should know that in reality, this is not going to happen and should be prepared to deal with each and every student that walks through their door in a respectful, decent manner.



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