

Enron: The film condemns culture, not individuals

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unfolds from Enron's inception during the early days of energy deregulation right up to founder Ken Lay being led away in handcuffs.

Political bias is a question that must arise these days concerning any documentary of this type, yet "Enron" is remarkably objective in its retelling of the details (not to say it doesn't take sides in some cases). And through it all, there is some amazing information not widely known to the general public. What is most incredible is that Enron went so long without anyone asking the right questions. The company essentially fabricated its own profits, reporting projected earnings rather than real ones. Major losses could be shown as major gains, investors and banks could be strung along with fake profits and analysts inflated stock values

far beyond anything resembling actual worth.

The sense of pure greed, the worst capitalism has to offer, permeates throughout every interview. While the documentary never comes out against deregulation, by showing a worst case scenario it makes a pretty compelling argument. Though the pure rush of information could cause viewers to lose interest, the overall view of human greed and hubris is compelling enough to get the film through the rough patches. In the end, the film condemns not an individual, but the materialistic culture in which such entities grow. The final product balances its educational value with its entertainment value in a way that makes this necessary viewing for anyone interested in American corporate scandal.

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A Robinson Theatre Production

Showtimes:
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Thursday May 19 at 7:30pm
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To: The Campus Community
From: College Democrats and College Republicans
Re: Political Censorship on Campus

George Bernard Shaw once wrote, "All censorships exist to prevent anyone from challenging current conceptions and existing institutions. All progress is initiated by challenging current conceptions, and executed by supplanting existing institutions. Consequently the first condition of progress is the removal of censorships. This is the whole case against censorships in a nutshell." After such eloquence and brevity there is little left to say, except perhaps to argue about the value of progress or the meaning of censorship.

Progress is, at its essence, the shaking up of the status quo and a yearning for something better for oneself and for others. Yet, it is apparent throughout history that the status quo has a way of cementing itself and limiting the forces of change. They realize, as Oliver Holmes wrote, that, "One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions."

This the status quo cannot abide, and so, they move to place a vice-grip upon the mind. This is where censorship comes in. Those who are afraid of ideas not their own, and who have power to do something about it, will try and stop--that is, censor--these ideas. This is rarely done these days by physical intimidation, and more often exists by greeting the ideas with canned partisan responses and knee-jerk reactions.

Although there are views that we may disagree with, those who are legally expressing those views should feel free to do so in an environment that is free from physical, verbal, and partisan abuse. We also believe that if a situation exists where laws are perceived to be violated, that the proper authorities need to address the situation. By no means should those not vested with proper authority take the law into their own hands."

At one point or another, all of us, standing as an organization or individual, will find ourselves expressing a belief that may not be held by the majority. We hope that all members of our community will join us in ensuring that anyone expressing an opinion will feel comfortable expressing themselves.

And so, we of the College Democrats and College Republicans affirm free speech on campus, and freedom from physical, partisan, and any form of intimidation, overt or not. We also affirm the responsibility of all students to hear people out, get the facts, and think before they critique.

With respect,
College Democrats

College Republicans

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