

Mime-Version: 1.0 (NeXT Mail 3.3 v118.2)  
From: Peter Simonson <psimonso@alleg.edu>  
Date: Wed, 29 Oct 97 17:13:02 -0500  
To: George Gerbner <GGerbner@pobox.asc.upenn.edu>  
Subject: Re: Allegheny Coll./class visit

George--

Thanks again for venturing up to the wilds of NW Pennsylvania and giving such a marvelous presentation. I feel quite lucky to have gotten to share two meals--and half a haircut--with you, and greatly enjoyed our conversations. I hope your trip back was uneventful.

Just to follow up on breakfast...whenever you get the chance, would you mind passing along a full CV/list of publications and, if it's handy, the book you mentioned on the decline of local forms of entertainment and talent. Also, if the title of your dissertation isn't on your list of pubs, could you include that so I can get the interlibrary loan people on it here.

If you're looking for something to read on the QE2 in preparation for landing in LA, the fascinating cultural history I mentioned to you that talks briefly about Adorno in exile is Mike Davis, City of Quartz.

Thanks in advance for the info, and thanks again for the visit.

Pete Simonson

--if you need to send anything regular mail, my address is:  
Box 79  
Allegheny College  
Meadville, PA 16335

Mime-Version: 1.0 (NeXT Mail 3.3 v118.2)  
From: Peter Simonson <psimonso@alleg.edu>  
Date: Mon, 3 Nov 97 10:05:10 -0500  
To: George Gerbner <GGerbner@pobox.asc.upenn.edu>  
Subject: Re: Allegheny Coll./class visit

Hi George--

Thanks so much for the citations--I am turning my RA loose this week tracking many of them down. A couple folks you mentioned have recently shaped my thinking: Turow's latest book, Breaking Up America, is, I think, very good--"the electronic version of gated communities" particularly stuck in my craw, though I am not completely persuaded by the idea that me getting a different set of advertisements in my Meadville Time magazine will have much impact in creating a different community of identification than somebody in Westchester County with their toney ads. Also, I just taught McChesney's very nice little pamphlet, Corporate Media and the Threat to Democracy to a group of kids from the campus radio station (I'm the advisor there), and we were all taken by his call at the end to be media activists...

...so, yes, I'd be delighted to play a part in CEM, and by all means have Kate Duncan put me on her list

Regarding the Marxist superstructure/substructure issue:

>>>As to the M'ist issue we were talking about, I neglected to mention that in my opinion the "superstructure" has become an integral and crucial part of the "structure" of existence that shapes consciousness -- hence "false consciousness" has become the pervasive norm, poor people cannot recognize where their interests lie, hence the "cultural environment" concept.>>>

I'm completely with you that 'superstructure' has become part of the structure of existence--I guess I would argue it always has been such a part--and I am drawn to the 'culturalist' strain of communication studies for just that reason. Where some of the British Marxists lose me is in the series of jujitsu moves they must make to overcome a tradition in which superstructure was at least in part epiphenomenal. My tendency is to sidestep the tradition and raid Marx of useful notions like praxis and the turn to questions of context and production.

Hope all's well there.

--Pete