

The New Criterion

Dispatch February 01, 2005 06:30 pm

Hamilton College & Ward Churchill: the coda

by Roger Kimball

2.01.2005

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[Posted 6:30 PM by *Roger Kimball*]

Joan Hinde Stewart, the president of Hamilton College, issued this statement informing the college community that Ward "little Eichmanns" Churchill would not, after all, be coming to the college.

February 1, 2005, 11 AM

Cancellation of Panel Discussion on Limits of Dissent

We have done our best to protect
what we hold most dear, the right
to speak, think and study freely.

But there is a higher responsibility
that this institution carries, and
that is the safety and security of
our students, faculty, staff and the
community in which we live.

Credible threats of violence have been directed at the College and members of the panel. These threats have been turned over to the police.

Based on the information available, I have made the decision to cancel this event in the interest of protecting those at risk.

Joan Hinde Stewart
President

As a specimen piece of intellectual mendacity, this gets, oh, about 9 out of 10 points: note the specious disjunction between "what we hold most dear, the right to speak, think and study freely" and the "But . . .," as if cancelling Ward Churchill's appearance were some an infringement of "the right to speak, think and study freely." Note, too, the suggestion, the aroma of victimization that Stewart diffuses, as if the fault here lay with her critics instead of with the Kirkland Project, which invited Churchill, and indeed with Stewart herself for her quite astonishing lack of leadership. It's a pathetic end to a rebarbative episode.

Roger Kimball is Editor and Publisher of *The New Criterion* and President and Publisher of Encounter Books. His latest books include *The Critical Temper: Interventions from The New Criterion at 40* (Encounter Books) and *Where Next? Western Civilization at the Crossroads* (Encounter Books).