

03.06.08.01

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Sarasota – Thursday, 06 Mar 2008

Dr. Jeffrey Record: What Went Wrong In Iraq, Lessons For The Future

VERBATIM RESPONSES: Re Presenter

Hard to hear him. He dropped his voice at every sentence.

Too far left.

Wonderful speaker!! Insightful observations. Well organized, intelligent.

What are we doing to restore necessary amenities to the Iraqi citizens?

Didn't say anything I don't already know. He didn't speak into the microphone, so hard to hear him and I don't have a hearing problem.

No suggestions for future. Covered everything already known – no new insights. Bob Woodward did it better in *State of Denial!*

He is good at looking back – not forward. Too much Vietnam. Not enough contrast between Vietnam and Iraq and Iraq dynamics. No analysis of where to go from here. With his background he could have offered a new view of (??).

Nothing new presented! Did not address lessons for future until Q & A.

No new info or insight offered. Lessons for the future: not addressed.

The speaker took us through the history of our armies in Iraq. This audience is most savvy about this – So what do we do now? There was no insightful thoughts of the future.

Previous speaker Klare was more clear and concise.

He dropped his voice frequently making it difficult to hear.

Prof Record stated much of what we knew. The insurgencies topic would have been more cogent.

I would like your opinion of what we should do now.

We were quite aware of the points he made but the subject is so pertinent that I suppose we can hear it repeated. Next year will be an entirely new set of problems, so if the speaker returns he'd better keep up with new problems. They will be so numerous as to

be mind boggling. The Q & A answered more than the lecture. Yes, the subject of course is timely – however it was more hindsight than what is to be done NOW!
Very tilted. Need more balance

Excellent!

Interesting subject. Could have a better speaker.

Subject gook. Speaker does not come across.

But message was only backward looking with no prescription for future.

Should be covered next year with different point of view.

Learnt nothing.

He didn't tell us anything we did not know. Of course, Iraq will always be of interest.
He mumbled.

But message was not timely. He didn't know the audience or chose to send message that was not new to the audience.

Excellent speaker.

His egotistical, dogmatic statements made me question their reliability. Prejudices do not enhance reliable, objective facts.

VERBATIM RESPONSES: Re SILL Programs

Sound system "faulty!"

I would like to see a moderator restrain the crowd for long enough to thank an important speaker!

Evaluations should be distributed weekly!

Need to use mic more. Some speakers are difficult to hear at time.

Rothkopf was not quite up to par this year. Also, I have heard Wednesday and Friday substance was similar and some people have both series.

Difficult to get to mike.

Invite Mr. Rothkopf – for sure.

Don't read introductions!

Surely someone should thank the speaker formally.

But difficulty in hearing. Please check at beginning enunciation and projection.

Have more speakers like Michael Klare, Davis Rothkopf, Barylski.

Speakers were not turned on in extra seating area.

All lectures this year have been outstanding. The best in many years.

03.07.08.02

PROGRAM COMMENTS
Venice – Friday, 07 Mar 2008
Dr. Jeffrey Record: Why Insurgencies Win

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Questions added much to the content of the lecture.

Nanotechnology? Please.

Question period exceptional.

Please invite Dr. Record back. He was excellent!

Q & A is wonderful.

Would like more current input from this speaker and relate his background with the current war in the Mideast.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs

The seating in VLT or Church of the Niacine are much appreciated over those at Community Center.

My compliments to SILL for an excellent season. I truly appreciate having the opportunity to attend these lectures in Venice.

I enjoy these lectures because they provide me various perspectives. Please be more diligent about cutting off statements by Q & A that include answers before the speaker responds.

Would like a presentation on the role the media in the U.S. plays in forming public opinion.

03.12.08.01

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Sarasota – Wednesday, 12 Mar 2008

Teresita Schaffer: Whither Pakistan? A Troubled State At A Crossroads

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Speaker was brilliant. Double this support. I am giving you my evaluation and my spouse's evaluation.

She was wonderfully organized and presented info clearly.

Did repeat herself in monotone voice. Not commanding attention.

Her delivery – She drops her voice at the end of sentences.

I find about the first 30-40 minutes of many of the lectures cover information I already know and only 5-10 minutes talks about solutions and further considerations. Unless the Q & A probe for more of solutions, I think speakers should be encouraged to spend less time on information or at least equal time to solutions/further considerations. Incidentally, this speaker is excellent.

Excellent.

She was one of the best speakers here this year.

Pakistan will be an important topic for years.

Excellent! Insightful!

Excellent presentation. (2 responses)

Ms. Schaffer was extremely informed and informative. As a former international civil servant working in Washington, D.C. I was impressed with her forthcoming, no holds barred approach to the discussion.

Of interest would be how the new democratic US president and congress will deal with Pakistan and what effect our pullout of Iraq will have.

A well organized and insightful lecture with excellent information! The speaker made an interesting, and even at times, humorous presentation. This was one of the best on the lecture series!!!

Length of talk – gave time for questions.

Today's lecture missed the opportunity to talk about the US view of the rest of the world's view on Pakistan. Comment on Intelligence Service – How influenced by change and vice versa.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs

This type of evaluation should be done on each speaker in my view! Also, the lady who introduced this speaker did a great job – bring her back!

Voice volume is not as good at the end of sentence as beginning.

I attended the Wed and Thurs lectures and I appreciate all the programs. I have been a member for 20 years.

Speakers from institutes and “think tanks” – we should know who supports these institutions so that we can better evaluate the talk. We should have Afro-American speakers.

Maps are needed, please!

Sound very bad. Speak closer to mike.

Questions should be limited to one per person.

The microphone and speech delivery left a lot to be desired. She should have used a body mike. My neighbors could not hear most of her remarks.

Always: Show map(s) on a large screen.

At end of some sentences speaker's voice fades (hard to hear). This seems to happen with some other speakers also. Perhaps next year you can emphasize this to speakers.

Answers too long.

03.13.08.01

PROGRAM EVALUATION
Sarasota – Thursday, 13 Mar 2008
Ambassador Howard B Schaffer: Substitute For (Spouse) Teresita Schaffer
India and The United States: Getting Two Big Democracies Together

VERBATIM RESPONSES: Re Presenter

Difficult to hear! 1) Voice didn't carry, 2) Head down while reading his speech.

Delivery – although interesting and well thought out – was stultifying – all read.
Delivery is everything. Statistics quoted were interesting, but went on too long – did not sense that audience began to lose interest!

The speaker's style of delivery tends to put one to sleep.

Until today, all speakers have been excellent. Reading his message did not come across.
Difficult to hear and understand.

Could not hear him He read from a printed sheet.

Speeches should not be read. Volume should be adjusted. Speakers must be known to be good speakers!

He was a terrible speaker. He dropped his voice at the end of every sentence making it impossible for people in the back to hear.

Great info delivered in a monotone.

Not loud enough.

Voice was too low – didn't hear much of address.

Speaker read his talk. He presented interesting information but since he was reading, his voice was too soft and difficult to hear. His presentation was too long.

I am disappointed. Speaker dropped the end of many words. Too low to be understood. I have excellent hearing. By the middle of his presentation I checked out. The restlessness of people around me suggested that they also were turned off.

When speaker reads his subject it put you to sleep.

Well informed; knows his subject, couldn't he speak to us rather than read to us? It's my personal preference for a faster paced presentation.

Speaker not loud enough. Speaker too long.

It was great that he substituted for his spouse, who spoke so well and did not read talk.

I realize this was a replacement speaker but his presentation was not stimulating. In addition, it was difficult to hear him at times. And – he read his report – never a plus!!

Mediocre delivery. Subject matter was too general (I am a person who would be very interested in India.)

Ambassador's voice didn't project. He didn't pace his presentation adequately.

Very difficult to hear even with microphone in use. Unable to Project voice.

Knowledgeable, but not a speaker!!

Not an interesting or engaging speaker.

Not fair to evaluate a “replacement.” However, that having been said, reading a speech, no matter how informative, not a dynamic presentation. Several other speakers have been stellar.

The worst speaker of the series. Couldn't hear and he went on & on & on & on & on.

Some may relate to his being substitute speaker.

Very bad speaker.

He was the most boring speaker of those I heard in the series.

Missed 25% of words uttered.

Speech was read verbatim – not the best presentation for this lecture series!

I realize this was a substitute but: 1) Nobody should read a serious speech 2) Nobody should mumble while reading in a monotone, 3) The beginning section was too long and of marginal relationship to the logic, and 4) It is foolish to use (???) speech with a relatively sophisticated audience.

Very boring.

No one should be allowed to read their talk!! Extremely boring!

His wife should not let him on a speaker's platform.

Delivery was poor.

VERBATIM RESPONSES: Re SILL Programs

Sound system needs to be improved.

This year's speakers have been overall the strongest group in the five years I have attended the Thursday series.

Please get a better microphone of '09. The one the introducer uses is perfect, and so are the two mikes used by the question-askers. However, the mike at the lectern is somewhat muffled, especially when the speaker drops his or her voice at the end of the sentence – which some of the speakers too frequently. Thanks!

Best speaker in this series so far was David Rothkopf. Please bring him back! For next year please more conservative speakers!! Would like to hear a talk on the positive role on the US in world – U.S. as a force for good.

Bad – Could not hear.

Excellent, but poor audio.

03.11.08.01

PROGRAM EVALUATION
Sarasota – Tuesday, 11 Mar 2008
Kimberly Ann Elliott: Globalization: Pros and Cons Assessed

VERBATIM RESPONSES: Re Presenter

Speaker spoke too rapidly and presented too many facts which could not be explored sufficiently. She should have concentrated on more generalized concepts.

Delivery was too fast. Does not articulate.

Too much data to absorb. We are not experts. Information conveyed needs to be done on a more elementary level.

Speaker was all over the place. Speech was poorly organized – strayed from globalization – too many uhms – and searching for words. Too many numbers – not enough new information.

She speaks much too fast.

I think the subject matter was interesting, but the speaker spoke too quickly and seemed to jump from subject to subject in the middle of a sentence.

Would have liked more specific examples. Very informative.

Needs better presentation. Ambulate more. Better visual aids.

Incoherent, unfocused, couldn't complete a sentence.

Yes, same topic next year with another speaker. Needs: better presentation skills; get rid of podium; show visuals of numbers (stats) being presented; Use Power Point or other aid; and Give objectives and refer to them. Get rid of the phrase "the government should" Poor!

Speaker didn't really answer any of the questions. Talked around them but didn't say anything.

Statistical info needs visuals. All presentations. No focus to this presentation. Complete a sentence.

Poor speaker. Talks too fast – can not digest her message because of her rapid speed.

Post election update.

I'd like to learn about the decline of our educational system – Why? How? and suggestions for how to improve it.

This speaker, as well as last week's talked much too fast for this type of hall, etc. Very difficult to understand the words – run together, etc.

The few questions asked by the audience were answered quite comprehensively and knowledgably.

Spoke too fast. Uneven articulation. When she looked down at her notes rather than speak directly into the microphone, her words were lost.

Interesting material, but talked too fast. Hard to understand words.

VERBATIM RESPONSES: Re SILL Programs

A suggested speaker (outstanding speaker) Residence: Squirrel Road, Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304 – Dr. Stanley Ovishinsky (father of electric car featured in Michael (???)

Turn the air conditioning down! It's too cold.

This morning I read a NY Times review of Susan Jacoby's book *The Age of American Unreason*. SILL is to be applauded for combating ignorance and raising the quality of understanding, discussion, and (hopefully) public policy. For Tuesday lectures SILL could probe the need for a broad domestic public policy to address policies that are not solved short of government initiatives that have slipped in the last 25 years.

03.14.08.02

PROGRAM COMMENTS

Venice --- Friday, 14 Mar 2008

**Ambassador Howard Schaffer (Substitute For Teresita Schaffer): Whither
Pakistan? A Troubled State At A Crossroads**

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Basic background lecture.

Very interesting. Well presented.

Try to find younger, more dynamic speakers. He was a dull, uh, speaker, and his voice, uh, kept dropping.

The speaker gave a well ordered, well organized talk. Relevant but extremely poorly (boringly) delivered.

No new information or insight.

Pompous. With an hour of prep, I could have given this talk.. Learned nothing.

The speaker swayed in front of the mike, thereby losing the sound for a great deal of his presentation. He was excellent for the questioning period.

Spoke so slowly that some people fell asleep.

I really did not learn anything new or get real insights.

A good speaker, well-informed, but made fascinating subject dry. No depth, more historical. Not enough "inside info."

Spoke slowly – a bit hesitantly. Made a bit difficult, and I had interest. Would turn away from mike so that sound was not good.

"3" due to short notice and difference between presentation & answering questions.

Great job in filling in on short notice. Good content but not a good speaker. Answer to questions much better than talk.

Speaker could be more dynamic.

Invite back – only if he gets instruction on use of the sound system.

Nice guy, good substitute effort; rather mundane presentation.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs

Host should turn mike downward to enhance audibility.

But with a body mike.

When certain country is discussed, it would be helpful to have a large map of area.
Example: South Asia including Pakistan colored brightly to indicate its borders.

It would help if speaker used chest/neck mike. Sound volume varies too much with stationary mike.

How can a good facility like this have such poorly regulated sound system?? Every program has problems. It's not adequate testing to say once "Can you hear me in the back??" Speakers who move around need lapel mikes which are tested. Get some technical assistance.

I could hear about 1/3 of lecture. He should wear a speaker microphone.

Comments. Send to Roy. Sound system loud and soft – varies. Needs work. Same on Tues lecture. Sound system with mike needs to be looked into.

Have you considered body mikes?

Speaker should use "head mic" to avoid volume change!

Couldn't hear the speaker. The microphone didn't help? Very frustrating.

03.20.08.01

PROGRAM EVALUATION
Sarasota – Thursday, 20 Mar 2008
Johannes Werner: ALBA: Sunrise Or Just A Shooting Star?

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Very interesting topic.

I know nothing about this subject. Very informative.

Johannes Werner was so well informed! And conveyed his message(s) very effectively with Power Point visuals. Never really understood from his introduction or advance program description why he is in Sarasota, what he is doing professionally? Would like to know more about him. D. F. Markstern 330-9613

Very biased presentation of current situation in Venezuela and Cuba. Did not discuss the repression that exists in both countries.

Interesting topic – ALBA – but speaker resorted to giving us way too many statistics. Would appreciate the talk more if he gave us his thoughts and true impressions of what's going on, i.e., the countries involved in ALBA.

Important to consider areas in the Western Hemisphere often ignored with our Middle East preoccupation.

Werner is knowledgeable speaker, but his accent sometimes makes him difficult to understand. The Power Point presentation was a big help in overcoming the monotone of his speech. He was far better in answering questions than in the formal presentation.

Should be addressed later, but different views.

Use of the computer was extremely helpful to the audience!

EXCELLENT!

The visual aids are very helpful.

The lecture would have been better if he hadn't read most of it.

Too long-winded.

It would have been good to hear about the political issues in South America.

Possibly the subject would be OK with a different speaker. He lulled much of the audience to sleep!

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs

Need in-depth update on Middle East.

In 2009, 2010, etc., consider having the first Wed – Thur lecture the second Wed and Thur of January instead of the first Wed and Thur, especially when Jan 1st falls in Mon or Tuesday.

Remove the moderator and the table from the stage. It's distracting and inappropriate for the image of an intellectual lecture series. Other programs have the "introducer" appear before and after the speaker and do not share the stage with the speaker. SILL's image suffers by comparison. Why not consider change?

03.21.08.02

PROGRAM EVALUATION

Venice – Friday, 21 Mar 2008

Peter DeSchazo: Challenges and Opportunities Ahead For Mexico

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Material fine, but reading a paper not as easily understood. Biased as usual speakers.

Speaker read his speech in a monotone. Could not look up to audience.

Too academic in style. Speaker just read his speech. Did not interject stories of his experience.

Speaker read his speech which makes it less interesting. Good information, though.

Reading a presentation verbatim does not give one the impression that one is listening to an “insiders” view of the subject.

Presentation was a “history.” Would have seen more helpful if he had addressed in more detail the internal problems and, also, our mutual problems and the possible solutions.

Not orated – read outright !!!

A “read” speech is difficult.

Read entire presentation – too quickly. Also swayed which was distracting.

You’ve spoiled us with such great speakers; that reading the lecture doesn’t do it.

He read all his speech; no emotion; dull reader.

Don’t read talk.

Reading his speech diminished his effectiveness.

Well informed, but I prefer more “spontaneity.” Than reading prepared text.

Too many facts in his talk. Great response to questions.

Speaker was flat when reading his talk. He was much more effective during the Q & A.

Speaker read his paper. More difficult to follow.

Don’t read it.

Very knowledgeable, but bring him back only if he does not read the entire talk so fast. Can't follow facts. Q & A much better than main talk.

Too bad he read his talk, but he was effective.

As often, question session better than prepared presentation.

Very excellent speaker! Interesting facts.

Very informative, good coverage of topic. Lecture style presentation could be improved.

Excellent. Extremely well versed in topic.

Would be better if he didn't read speech, but he answered questions very effectively. Good material, but reading a lecture is not as effective as direct speaking using only notes.

The speaker's delivery was dull. Why so many of the presenters read their speeches? Strongly encourage more dynamic presentations.

If invited back, he should be (???) to speak much slower. Much better answering questions.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs

Would like to see more "economic" speakers, such as Dr. Karen Johnston. Perhaps Paul Krugman (Princeton/NY Times) would be a good speaker.

This year's speakers have been so excellent. Look forward to next year. Thanks to you all.

Today, sound system much improved. Thanks!

I've attended about half the Friday Venice lectures this year and think they have been excellent. I would attend more if I could.

This is our third year of subscribing to SILL International lectures in Venice. Presentation by speakers has degenerated into dull reading of speeches this year. SILL will lose participation of this continues. Please do something to get speakers to present their subjects in a more dynamic manner!

03.18.08.02

PROGRAM COMMENTS
Venice – Tuesday, 18 Mar 2008
Dr. Bob Evans: Energy Beyond Carbon Fuels: Bio-Mass?

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re Presenter

Too technical and the speaker swallowed his words. Spoke too quickly and used very confusing graphs.

Too technical.

Is it possible to get all speakers to refrain from lowering his voice repeatedly – sometimes on key statements? This guy needs help.

I found it difficult to hear him and I am not hard of hearing.

Dropped his voice a lot Hard to hear!

Hard to understand. Spoke quickly. Too many charts that were too technical.

Drops his voice at end of sentence.

Much too technical and chemistry depth. Some explanation would have been appropriate but too many technical graphs (scientists love graphs!) A more simple explanation of the problem, a solution as seen by tDr. Evans and even – what can the average person do to help in the inevitable fuel crisis we all are facing.

Well informed; maybe a bit too technical for some.

Very informative. Clear and concise. “a-political.”

Much too tech. Hard to relate to.

VERBATIM COMMENTS: Re SILL Programs

Great to have graphics. Too cold in this VCC facility.

Thanks for the Power Point! See how much better it is?

How about a program on evacuation or emergency preparedness. Besides the local fire chief and police chief, is there a county, state or federal homeland security person to keep us all organized?