 **Weekly Free Speech Forum** established Jan. 6, 1951

#####  College of Complexes

 **The Playground for People Who Think**

sustaining the academic tradition of **“One Fool at a Time”**



October 4th **Why Political Campaign Financing Should Be**

**Unrestricted and Anonymous**

****Meeting # 3,293 - CoC old-timer Bob Matter returns to cut through the emotional hyperbole surrounding Citizens United and the Koch Brothers with a factual analysis of political campaign financing.

October 11th **Illinois Green Party Candidate for US Congress, Nancy Wade**

Meeting # 3,294 *-* has qualified for ballot status by Board of Elections

October 18th **Dorothy Day, Co-Founder of the Catholic**

 **Worker Movement** Mtg #3,295 – author Rosalie Riegle

discusses her biography of a social activist who advanced the Catholic economic theory of distributism – she believed all states were inherently totalitarian, was considered to be an anarchist, and did not hesitate to use the term.

October 25th **RaceMan Answers: America's Toughest**

**Questions on Race, Inequality & More**

Meeting # 3,296 - author Lowell Thompson - in RMA he shows the relationship between our nation's history of white-over-black, and its current extreme 'white-vs-white' inequality



Nov 1st **The Origins of Free Markets**

**From Imperialism to Neo-Liberalism**

Meeting # 3,297 - college regular Sid Cohen

****November 8th **Why the Banks, Wall Street, and Corporations**

**Will Ultimately Be the Best Thing that Will Bring Back America** Meeting # 2,298 – college regular Tim

Bolger will tell why these much maligned institutions are absolutely essential, and how they will ultimately be the "salvation of America"



November 15th **The Reality of Human-Caused Climate**

**Disruption: The Time to Act Is Now!**

Meeting # 3,299 - Energy-environmental activist Dennis Nelson responds to the climate deniers / delayers



November 22nd **The Future of Democracy**

Meetings 3,300 - college regular Li-Ping Yuan returns, and says that: “I would like to make a few suggestions to take advantage of new technologies, change old mindsets and solve some current political problems.”

November 29th **The Achievements of President Correa's**

**Ecuador and Evo Morales' Bolivia**

Meetings 3,301 - Stanfield Smith reports back with photos of two trips

December 6th **South Korea:  Cutting - Edge Competitor or**

 **Cold War Captive?** Meeting # 3,302 – Peter Pero

[**www.collegeofcomplexes.org**](http://www.collegeofcomplexes.org)

December 13th **Who Makes Our Christmas Gifts, and**

 **Who Sells Them to Us** Meeting # 3,303 – a brief look at the commercialization of Christmas, followed by an overview of labor conditions in Asia (Apple, Disney, Mattel), with a look at the retail industry in the US (Walmart) – with recommendations for having an exploitation free holiday.

December 20th **The Jesus Connection –**

**for Us Merry Gentlemen and Ladies**

Meetings 3,304 - ​ Doug Baschiere will present his views on the existential question put by Jesus, Mary’s boy child born on Christmas Day, to his followers “Who do you say I AM?” during His earthly life.



December 27th **Open**

Meeting # 3,305+ - Contact Program Coordinator Charles Paidock if you 20 would like to speak, or know of an individual or organization we should invite at (**312) 842-5036, (312) 714-7790 cell o**r cpaidock@hotmail.com

 **Saturdays Presentation at 6:00 PM**

**Please Note: New Location + Starting Time $3 Tuition** dinner optional

**Hilltop Restaurant 6-9:00 PM**

**2800 West Foster Ave / at California**

**Free Parking, #92 Foster CTA bus from Jeff Park Blue, Berwyn Red L Stations**

[**www.collegeofcomplexes.org**](http://www.collegeofcomplexes.org)

**Solicitation for Speakers**

If you would like to make a presentation, or know of an individual or organization

we should invite, contact: Charles Paidock, Program Coordinator at **(312) 842-5036**

**or (312) 714-7790** cell, email: **cpaidock@hotmail.com**



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 **“the legendary forum for free-thinkers and iconoclasts”** Chicago Tribune

 **“the entire spectrum of ideas…to the very far out”** Lerner Newspapers

 **“always ahead of its time, or completely out of step with it”** Chicago Reader

 **“people who have strong opinions on every topic under the sun,**

 **or beyond it”** Chicago Sun-Times

“**a weekly debate group that attracts outsiders and political obsessives”** Chicago Magazine

 **“rabble rousers who argue the pros and cons of everything”** Time Out Chicago

**Statement on Free Speech**

Our constitution and laws encourage the freest possible exchange of opinions, ideas, and information. In part, that recognizes our worth and dignity as human beings. To forbid us to speak our minds demeans us and makes us more like slaves or robots than citizens of a free country. But as important as freedom of expression is for us as individuals, it is perhaps more important to society at large.

**Studia Humanitatis** (“the studies of human things”)

Pico della Mirandola (1463-1494) exhibited an immoderate ambition to study and know everything. He was the Renaissance man *par excellence*. By age twenty-three Pico believed himself the equal in learning of any man alive. In a daunting challenge, perhaps unequaled in history, he proposed to defend a list of nine hundred theses (*Conclusiones* *Nongentae in Omni Genere Scientiarum* – “900 Conclusions in Every Kind of Science”) drawn from various authors. He invited scholars from all of Europe to come to Rome to dispute with him publicly.

The public battle of minds never happened. Unfortunately for Pico, his list of topics came to the attention of the Vatican, which declared thirteen of them heretical. Pico, stunned, issued an immediate recantation. This was insufficient to keep him out of prison. (A History of Knowledge: Past Present and Future – Charles Van Doren)

Were Pico alive today, I believe he would have become a “regular” at the College of Complexes, and participate in our own public battle of minds. Although none of us is as massive an intellect as Pico, each of us has at least a few theses we might like to defend. Nevertheless, if you’re interested in studia humanitatis, join us some Saturday evening. And you won’t be put in prison.

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**To Disquiet the Minds of the People**