

Being There: an editorial

Stephanie Torio

The Art Institute

College English

Professor Kenneth Frawley

December 10, 2008

Being There Editorial

Being There is a brilliant film of a hermit gardener who made his way up the social ladder without any effort or a thought in his mind. The movie cleverly satirizes society and how everyone is merely mimicking another, without any individual thought. *Being There* teaches that life is merely a state of mind and how apparent it is in society today.

Chance, a simple-minded gardener had others deceive themselves into believing he was a scholar. In the beginning, Eve rushed to the conclusion that Chance was a well-established person because he was well dressed, and had a sense of humor because of his cryptic simple speech. His supposed metaphors had many important people, including the president, to become over their heads and become clouded by their skewed perception of Chance. Their mental impressions did not reflect what was reality and allowed what others perceived Chance to be the truth.

How many people believed that Chance was an intelligent person is sadly not entirely new in society today. For example, America has been deceived for eight straight years, believing that someone as dim as George W. Bush would be the right person to rule a country. People have become such sheep, that society no longer bothers to take the time and formulate their own speculations and see past his thick Texan accent is nothing but fear mongering and droning rubbish. Here, fear has led people to rush to a conclusion that there were terrorists and allowed Bush to carry on his selfish schemes.

Bush's strange shift in having the war in Afghanistan to Iraq was perplexing, but he convinced a majority of the country that the country was a threat, possessing weapons of mass destruction. Bush also led the citizens of America to believe that the government was doing well

by spreading democracy in the Middle East. With the country blinded by a barrage of lies, Bush and his cronies went on drilling oil.

In McCain's recent election, many of his supporters blindly accepted that his opponent, Barack Hussein Obama, was Muslim because of his middle name. Rather than stopping to think that this statement might have been false, this statement has led many voters to support their prejudice against Obama, believing him to be a terrorist because of the association of his middle name. Since the statement, it helped prove in how many bigots are still in the country.

It is not only in politics, but also in everyday life where people do not exercise individual thought. In the instance of religion, many supporters of religion partake in it solely because it is the way they are raised, parroting what their parents have taught them. Later the followers carry on with their lives and continue the trend of following the religion and the cycle continues. Rather than questioning the religion, something that can consume time, morals and money, and much more at stake, many go along with the masses and allow themselves to follow it blindly. People have become so engrossed in their religion that followers have been included in strange and deluded practices, some have leading into their the death of others or their own.

Hopefully, in due time, people will become less like a drone and be able to think for themselves instead of following the masses. It is not impossible that society to be able to separate perception from reality but it is woefully not realistic. A person's skewed perception can eventually affect the masses unless someone stops to question in what is actually happening.