

Kupfer cont. from pg 6

shoulder saying do this, do this and do it my way."

Contemporary American culture and its place in the world interests Kupfer more than other places and times in history. He said he has heard complaints about Americans not understanding other cultures, but he thinks otherwise. "Some [cultures] think if they understand MTV and Big Macs they then understand American culture, and they're just kidding themselves," he said.

His lectures are informative, entertaining and "user-friendly," and most importantly contain something students can relate to.

"It's nice to be able to teach a class about material that

interests me," says Kupfer. "The real issue is the students. I loved college myself because it is an interesting time in a person's life because you go to college to expand your perspectives."

"I like to deal with students at different levels. Some can't wait to get the hell out of senior year, and I like those just as much."

Kupfer mentioned that his most rewarding experience as a professor took place while he was working at Michigan State, and a student disappeared for a brief time.

"He resurfaced two or three weeks later and it looked like he had partied a lot. I told him, 'here's what you need to do to pass this class,' and we

developed a pretty good relationship. I helped him not drop out of college."

Kupfer chalks up his success to a handful of professors he has encountered along the way, including Steven Dickson, who taught him at Johns Hopkins.

"He was kind and honest, not neurotic. He treated me with a lot of respect, and was the perfect model for a college professor."

Kupfer also mentions William Goetzmann, and Bob Devine and Elspeth Rostow, all from the University of Texas, where Kupfer started his college journey. He also credits Mark Smith and Terry Todd, both from Texas as well, with his interest in becoming a professor.

Teaching aside, Kupfer recently published a book called "We Felt the Flames," dealing with media coverage in World War II. His second book is a work in progress, with a working title of "Indomitable Will: From Defeat to Victory."

"The first book did pretty well, I had some good luck with it," said Kupfer.

This busy professor doesn't have much spare time, but what does have, he spends with his wife and kids, driving them around, taking them to soccer games, or trying to squeeze in a sporting event. He is very excited about soon bringing a parrot into their home in addition to their cat and dog. Kupfer said he lives a life of bliss. "I love my kids, and I love my students. I wouldn't change a thing."

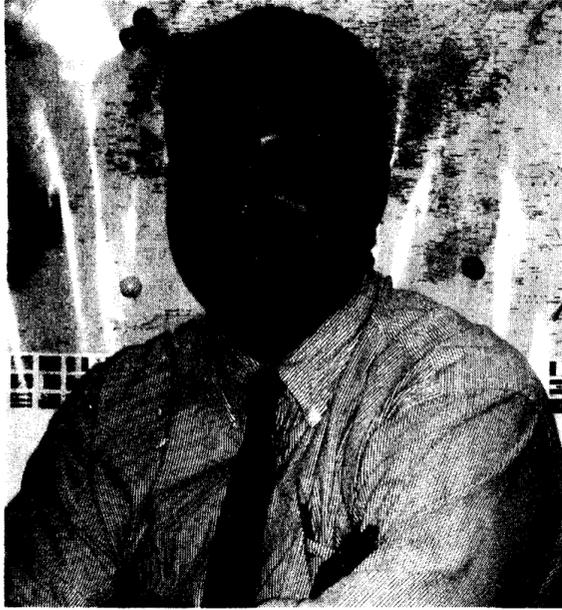


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