

Passed Unanimously  
April 01, 2003

**The General Studies Student Council's Statement Concerning  
Associate Professor Nicholas De Genova**

As students of Columbia University, and representatives of the School of General Studies, we have been deeply embarrassed and offended by Professor De Genova's recent comments, which included a call for "one million Mogadishus." Professor De Genova's statements were inappropriate and horribly inconsiderate, especially when taking into account the fact that many members of the Columbia community have family and friends in the military, currently in harms way. For the School of General Studies, in particular, which not only has a substantial population of military veterans, but also a number of students actively serving in the military, Professor De Genova's call for violence against military members is even more inexcusable and frightening.

We absolutely support Professor De Genova's right to freedom of speech; indeed, many General Studies students, Columbia University graduate students, faculty members, administrators, and alumni have served their country in order to protect his right to free speech. However, Professor De Genova's statements were a direct incitement to violence against the men and women in the military, and, as such, are tantamount to advocating violence against members of the Columbia community who are still in the military. This is unacceptable, and his affiliation with Columbia University reflects poorly on all of us.

We would like to extend our support to the men and women fighting overseas, and we hope for their safe return. It is with all of this in mind, that we ask the administration to strongly reprimand Professor De Genova, and for Professor De Genova to issue a public apology.