

# Student Groups Stage Walk-Out During Horowitz Speech

By Kiron Terrell

On Wednesday, Nov. 29, 2001 at 7:00 p.m., David Horowitz addressed a full audience in Memorial Hall.

Horowitz, who is the editor and chief of the online magazine [www.frontpagemagazine.com](http://www.frontpagemagazine.com), the director of the Center for the Study of Popular Culture and the author of several books including "Hating Whitey" is no stranger to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In the spring of 2001, David Horowitz tried to publish a full-page ad in *The Daily Tar Heel* outlining his opinions on "why reparations are a bad idea and racist too." Although his ad was not run, a column he authored led to a demonstration facilitated by the OWE (On the Wake of Emancipation) Campaign and an open forum in the form of editorials in the campus newspaper.

David Horowitz, who was asked to speak on campus by the College Republicans, did not come to speak on reparations but came to speak about anti-war sentiments in America following the 9/11 Attack on America. Horowitz commented that his coming was in response to the three teach-ins that took place on campus in the immediate weeks following the attack.

In his introduction Horowitz referred to himself as a "one man teach-in," who had come to the University to combat what he felt was an overwhelmingly liberal presence. David Horowitz also began his speech by providing a brief overview of his personal history concerning Vietnam, the Black Panther Party and his recent ad campaign against reparations.

Ten minutes into the speech, approximately 150 students sitting in the first nine rows of the auditorium walked out in silent protest. As the students left

the auditorium members of the audience stood up and yelled at the demonstrators. An audience member yelled to the exiting students, "Where's my reparations?" and from his podium, Horowitz sarcastically said to the audience, "This is called a demonstration."

As the students left Horowitz briefly addressed the audience about the scene unfolding before him; he called it a "sad commentary on the BSM and the BCC." He went further to say that it was a "much sadder commentary on the University. The students will never learn how to answer the argument I presented."

Erica Lee, a student who participated in the demonstration, explained her action, "I believe that it was important for students of color and our allies to take a stand against his type of misrepresentation and portrayals of black people and our struggle in the United States."

Several campus organizations participated in the silent protest including: the Black Student Movement, the UNC-CH chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Campus Y, Young Democrats and Students for a free

Tibet.

After the mass exodus David Horowitz's speech progressed from a message about his thoughts on American anti-war sentiments to a blatant attack on the University, Chancellor Moeser, the faculty and students. Horowitz openly attacked Moeser for allowing teach-ins after the September 11 attack. In response to the memorial service and teach-ins Horowitz stated, "I can't find words to express my contempt for the chancellor and this university for supporting these views."

Horowitz also intermittently addressed the protest that had just taken place during his speech. He called the protesters "moronic" and said they walked out because they "haven't got the brains to argue." He went on to say once again that black Americans owe a debt to America for their freedom and for "eliminating them from the chains of slavery and racism."

The final portion of Horowitz's speech was dedicated to addressing his previous anti-reparations ad. He linked the ad and the anti-war sentiment in America and at the University stating, "Hate is at UNC and is coming from UNC."

Following his speech Horowitz fielded questions from the audience. The session was brief; Horowitz entertained three questions from the audience before he retired from the podium.



**Top:** Students from various campus organizations walked out of a speech given by controversial speaker David Horowitz as an expression of their opposition to what he has said in the past about African-Americans.