

Ex-Klansman wins Louisiana runoff

By KATIE WOLFE
Staff Writer

In a controversial election, Republican David Duke, a former Ku Klux Klan leader, won a Louisiana state legislative runoff Saturday. Despite efforts by President Bush, former President Reagan and other party leaders to prevent his victory, Duke beat his opponent, John Treen, by 227 votes in the virtually all-white district.

Duke based his appeal on his affirmative action policy, promised attack on crime and opposition to new taxes.

According to Brian Sleeth of Louisiana Gov. Charles Roemer's office, the governor issued a prepared statement explaining his position on Duke's election.

"The election of David Duke represents the wishes of the voters of

District 81. That fact must be respected regardless of what one might think personally about David Duke's philosophical principles," Roemer said in the statement.

"While I don't agree with him philosophically, he is only one member of a 144-member legislative body," Roemer said. "He has the obligation to his constituents to act responsibly within that body."

But others do not share the governor's trust in Duke.

In an unprecedented move led by Lee Atwater, chairman of the Republican National Committee, the Republican Party is now motioning for censure of Duke.

"We frankly don't consider him a Republican," said Dan Schnur, deputy press secretary of the national Republican Party. "He only regis-

tered as a Republican three days before the deadline, and in the past he has run as both a Democrat and a Populist.

"We think that he is a racist and a bigot and extremely repugnant," Schnur said. "Unfortunately, he is just good at pulling the wool over people's eyes."

If the censure is successful, Duke will not be entitled to any benefits of Republican Party membership, including financial assistance and endorsements.

"He'll be a Republican in name only," Schnur said.

Organizations monitoring hate groups also oppose Duke's election.

"His election represents a dangerous development in politics," said Lynora Williams, executive director of the Center for Democratic Renewal. "We think Duke's victory repre-

sents a watershed for those white supremacists trying to gain credibility."

Danny Welch, chief investigator for Klan Watch, said: "Duke's election might encourage other polished white supremacist leaders to take off the white robes and swastikas for three-piece suits. Although he no longer carries a card, we believe that his racist views have not changed."

Duke is scheduled to take his seat in the state House Wednesday. Rep. Oden Bacque plans to challenge Duke's residential qualifications in hopes of making Duke ineligible.

Rep. Kip Holden said he plans to walk out during Duke's swearing-in ceremony. "I have difficulty in seeing Duke swear to uphold the ideals of the state of Louisiana when I know he's a hypocrite," Holden said.

Campus Police Roundup

■ Police arrested Deryck Newman Clites, 20, of Fort Bragg, and charged him with disorderly conduct after he hit a police car on Franklin Street with a snowball at 1:30 a.m. Sunday. As an officer put Clites in the police car, David C. Symons, 20, also of Fort Bragg, blocked the car door. He was arrested and charged with obstructing and delaying. Both men were released on \$200 unsecured bail.

■ Police were asked to investigate a strange odor at Connor Residence Hall at 4:27 a.m. Sunday. A smoke bomb caused the odor. Three other bombs were found near an area director's door. There was no damage, and the fire

alarm was not activated.

■ A man approached a woman walking on Pittsboro Street Thursday afternoon and asked her questions about her personal hygiene habits. He then began masturbating. The woman crossed the street and left. The man is described as a white male, 20-22 years old, wearing a white T-shirt, jeans, a blue baseball cap and a gold necklace.

■ A female Avery resident reported at 5:16 a.m. Thursday that men were yelling in her suite. She looked through the peephole in her door and saw two nude men. She was unable to identify the men for the police.

— compiled by Jenny Cloninger

Career Corner

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3/29/89	Bankers and Shippers	Gmgt., Insr., Mktg., Sale.	BU/BS,LIBA/BA
3/30/89	Milliken & Company	Mfgm.	ANY/BA,BS
3/30/89	Fidelity Financial Group		ANY/BA,BS

OPEN SIGN UP

3/28/89	Ames Department Stores	Rmgt.	ANY/BA,BS
3/28, 3/29/89	University Directories		
3/29/89	Advanced Care Products		
3/29/89	Nat. Ctr. for Paralegal		ANY/BA,BS
3/30/89	Glaxo		

Legislature to consider reform of N.C. income tax procedures

By KELLY THOMPSON
Staff Writer

North Carolina's first income tax reform in 50 years could mean significant reductions for low- and middle-income taxpayers next year if the General Assembly passes a new three-part proposal during the 1989 session.

The proposal was made by the Tax Fairness Study Commission and was introduced into the assembly by Sen. Dennis Winner, D-Buncombe, and Rep. Sharon Thompson, D-Durham. The bill would make three changes

to the existing system: It would tie the state income tax form to the federal tax form, abolish the current flat tax rate of 7 percent, and raise the income threshold and adjust tax brackets.

"The bill will help everybody to some extent, because it will make everybody's taxes simpler," Winner said.

By accepting federal exemptions and deductions, the proposal would cut preparation time in half or more, he said. The new system would also allow spouses to file joint returns for state income tax.

The tie-in with the federal deductions and exemptions should save most taxpayers money. With the exception of single people with no dependents, the federal exemptions are higher than current state rates.

"But the big savings will be for low-income families that use the standard deduction. The federal deduction is 10 times the state's," Winner said. For example, a family of four, which now begins paying taxes at a \$5,000 income, would only pay taxes if income were greater than \$12,500 under the new proposal.

The proposal would also end North Carolina's flat income tax rate of 7 percent. Taxpayers would face a 5 percent tax rate on a base amount, increasing to 8 percent on additional income. The base amount would depend on marital status and number of dependents, but most middle- and low-income workers will find their taxes reduced, Thompson said.

"Since some of the rates hadn't changed in 50 years, the tax burden had shifted to low-income folks," she said.

Because of North Carolina's flat

tax rate of 7 percent, taxpayers earning \$10,000 pay the second highest rate in the nation for their tax bracket. Under the new system, a single taxpayer earning \$12,000 would have a 5 percent rate, and a head of household earning \$10,000 with two dependents would pay no taxes.

The proposal's last reform would change the current tax brackets and tax threshold, which were set up in 1931 to take the tax burden off people affected by the Depression. For example, in 1937 the per capita income of the state was \$323 a year, but residents didn't pay taxes unless their adjusted gross income was \$2,000 or more.

Unfortunately, the brackets haven't kept up with inflation and economic development. By 1987, the tax threshold was still \$2,000, but the per capita income had risen to \$13,314. With the flat tax rate, a disproportionate tax burden rested on the low-income taxpayers. The new proposal aims to correct that.

Taxes would be reduced through a higher tax threshold and the split tax rate. To keep state revenues even, the proposal would increase taxes in upper income levels.

Singles with incomes up to \$37,500 should not have a tax increase, Thompson said. A married couple with two dependents could make up to \$75,000 before their taxes increased.

Both Winner and Thompson expect it will be some time before the bill is submitted to the General Assembly for a vote. But once it does get before the General Assembly, both legislators have high hopes that it will pass.

Measures passed to end school crowding

By MARIA BATISTA
Staff Writer

The Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education passed a bill to relieve overcrowding in the schools at its meeting Monday night.

The plan calls for the rising sixth-graders at Frank Porter Graham Elementary School to attend Culbreth Junior High School, and for rising sixth-graders at Seawell and Estes Hills elementary schools to attend Phillips Junior High School.

The Colonial Heights and Ironwoods subdivisions are redistricted to Estes Hills and Seawell elementary schools, and both will attend Phillips Junior High School. Rising fifth-graders at Carrboro Elementary School will have the option to remain there for their fifth-grade year.

The school board also recommended that these districts remain the same when middle school districts are defined in the 1991-1992 school year.

The ninth-graders at Phillips will attend Chapel Hill Senior High School beginning next year. The

ninth-graders at Culbreth will remain at Culbreth and will not attend CHHS until their 10th-grade year.

Many people oppose the inconsistencies that will result from the splitting up of the two ninth-grade classes.

"I think it's the only workable solution the system has, unless you want to keep loading up the playgrounds with mobile classrooms," Culbreth principal Woody Edmonds said. "But I think it will disrupt the continuity of the ninth grade. One group will always have the advantage. I guess I'm biased because it's our kids who are being left behind."

Edmonds said the staff at Culbreth will do everything it can to make similar course opportunities available to their students.

Peter Wallsten, a junior at CHHS, said a majority of the high school students are against having the ninth-graders at the high school, primarily because the high school is overcrowded already.

"It might not technically be overcrowded, but I feel it is," he said. "It's going to take away opportunities for us that's made Chapel Hill High one of the best in the state."

"They (the school board) haven't looked at anything else. Some people may take it as a joke, but what's wrong with taking Lincoln Center and returning it back to being a school? They (the city school administration) don't need all of this space," Wallsten said.

School board member Carolyn Horn said, "It's somewhat unnerving to be the only board member to be against this option, but I feel it may seriously impair the education of all of the students involved."

Larry Wakeford, a teacher at CHHS and a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Association of Educators, said the option may cause inconveniences at the high school, but the entire system must be taken into consideration when making decisions.

This option also avoids the expenditure involved in purchasing mobile classrooms, which would be obsolete when additions to the high school are

completed, he said. Construction is expected to be completed for the 1991-1992 school year.

Tom Brown, a teacher at Culbreth and a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Federation of Teachers, also offered his organization's support of the option. He said the system should hire a combination lead teacher/counselor for the ninth-graders at CHHS.

"Based on the ninth-graders I teach, I think both will be needed to make the transition easier," he said.

Tommy Tyson, co-president of the PTA at Culbreth, said the PTA fully supports this option. He said he has received no feedback, positive or negative, about the option from the parents at Culbreth.

"Ninth grade is when the clock starts running on your transcript," he said. "The way I see it, it's good that you get in high school in ninth grade — it prepares you for college."

As for the Culbreth students, Tyson said, "They (the opponents of the option) aren't giving the Culbreth kids enough credit. They will be able to adapt quickly."

Union activities board accepting applications

By SARAH CAGLE
Staff Writer

Students can apply for positions on the 1989-1990 Carolina Union Activities Board (CUAB) until March 3.

"The Union Activities Board is the largest programming organization on campus," said Billy Pizer, CUAB president. "We program speakers, films, gallery shows, the Cabaret, concerts and outdoor events."

Board members not only decide the focus and direction of Union events, but also recruit and organize a committee of students to produce the events, Pizer said.

"Being on the activities board is like being in a committee, except it's not as specialized," said Sharon Kessler, chairwoman of the film committee.

Board members are required to attend a weekly CUAB meeting, keep office hours five hours per week, and meet with their individual committees weekly.

"I would encourage anyone thinking about getting involved in campus activities to apply," said Pizer.

Pizer said he wants to find people who are interested in the CUAB, not just people who want to chair a Union committee.

"Not enough emphasis has been placed on organizing the Union Activities Board to produce the

events we want to produce. There will be more emphasis on organizing ourselves effectively next year," Pizer said.

A board member would have to have time for the CUAB, commitment to the position, and organizational skills, Pizer said.

"You will really learn a lot about group management and leadership," said Kessler.

Kris Roberts, performing arts committee chairwoman, said: "You get a good sense of accomplishment when you program an event well and see a lot of students show up."

This year there are 10 Union committees: the Cabaret, human relations, social, special projects, public relations, gallery, publicity, film, performing arts and forum committees.

The number of committees may change next year depending on the interests of applicants, Pizer said.

"If someone has an idea for a new committee, I don't have a problem with it."

Pizer will be available for questions in the CUAB office after 8 p.m. most weekdays, he said.

CUAB applications are available at the Union desk and should be returned by March 3.

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Don't miss the arts news in Thursday's Omnibus

The 88's Are In!

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JULIUS LESTER

Well-known veteran of the Civil Rights Movement, author of several books mostly concerned with issues involving Blacks in America and his own journey to Judaism. A native Southerner, Julius Lester has appeared on Radio and Television talk shows. He is currently on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

FEBRUARY 22-23, 1989

LECTURE I: My Journey to Judaism
Wednesday Evening, February 22 at 8:00 p.m.
107 Gross Chemistry Building-Duke University, West Campus
Reception to follow

Informal Discussion: Luncheon with Julius Lester
Thursday, February 23, at 12:30 p.m.
Brown Bag Lunch will be provided
Mary Lou Williams Center
Duke University, West Campus

LECTURE II: Blacks and Jews in American History
Thursday Afternoon, February 23, at 3:30 p.m.
Room 105-106 Carolina Union
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
Reception to follow

The Gothic Bookshop at Duke is sponsoring a reception and book signing for Julius Lester's book *Love Song* on Wed., Feb. 22, 4:30-6:00 p.m.

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