

David Ernest Duke:

'My race has never been defeated, and we will not fall this time.'

by Tim Harrell and Jim Ryan

Without the Klan label, David Ernest Duke does not seem a remarkable person. Had he been sitting in the audience of Memorial Hall Thursday night, he would have gone unnoticed. His carefully tousled hair, sparse moustache and short sideburns made him look even younger than his 24 years.

His clothing was equally unremarkable. The double-breasted, chalk-striped suit he wore was in need of pressing. It hung loosely on his slight frame, and his tan suede cowboy boots clashed with his dark outerwear suit. The satin robes were wisely left at home.

But those who heard Duke speak at his Thursday afternoon press conference or at the reception after his thwarted speech confirmed the rumor: David Ernest Duke is a remarkable person.

Duke is the National Information Director of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He has been allowed to speak at Vanderbilt University, Indiana University, the University of Southern California, Stanford University and Tulane University — not exactly the strongholds of right-wing politics. Thursday night UNC students acquired the dubious honor, purchased with \$800 of student fees, of being the first to deny David Ernest Duke the right of free speech.

At the reception in the Morehead Planetarium after his aborted Forum sponsored appearance, Duke gave the speech he said he would have given in Memorial Hall. He spoke of monsters devouring White Western Christian Civilization — not the boogey man or King Kong, but, in their place, some much more tangible monsters.

"We must meet and defeat the enemy," Duke said. The enemy he defined as "those who are pushing for integration, non-white culture, Communism, against the ideals of our Republic, or those who attempt to thwart the Klan."

"What the Klan is striving for," he said, "is political power — power to the white majority, for their ideals, wants and interests. After all, the United

country hold their allegiance. Again, our country must follow the needs of the majority; but right now, 3 per cent of the U.S. population (Jewish people) runs the government."

Duke said Jews were his "favorite subject," but he by no means limited his criticisms to them.

He labeled the Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference as a "nigger who is hat in hand with the American Jews. And he still continues to get money from them. The fact that white students at this university are forced to pay student fees which support an all-black organization, the BSM, is very discriminatory."

Duke said a white student organization should be formed to meet the needs of the majority of the UNC student population. "Likewise, if there is a black student union, the whites should have their union. If the history of the black race is taught in a special course, then a course should be designed to teach the history of the Caucasian race."

"Separatism is the only way the white and black races can survive," Duke stressed. "You take the typical garden-variety Negro and place them in Canada or any other white society, and by virtue of their own culture and lifestyles, they



Staff photo by Charles Hardy

Duke pleaded for White Christian supremacy to his divided audience in Memorial Hall....

Excerpts from Duke's speech

The following remarks, excerpts from David Duke's planned but aborted speech Thursday night, were delivered to a group at a reception following the incident.

White race

The white race is one race on this earth which has never been conquered and I don't think it's going to be.

Before I would sacrifice the white race, I would sacrifice the South, or the North, or anywhere in the world. Because I believe that the white race — this is my opinion — I believe the white race is essential to what we call the United States of America, our ideals, and a decent good country.

(What's important is) not what we're against. We're for certain things — what we consider the ideals of Western Christian Civilization.

Our people in this country are beginning to stand up — the white people all over this country. I was in Boston, and nobody can claim that that is a Southern, hate-

Well, if I had a blackboard here I could draw a big picture, you know, and it has a great big long nose, and everybody kind of giggles and laughs and they say, "Well, you know, that kind of looks like a Jew . . . Anyway, I couldn't draw a picture of a Baptist."

I don't think that we need any more Vietnam, and I think that we've got a Vietnam coming if we're not careful, in the Mideast. I think that we ought to pursue our national policy, not the policy of some little minority that's very brassy and has got a lot of pull in Congress and in the media and so forth.

Blacks

I am not talking in basic terms of superiority or inferiority in the worth of an individual . . . I'm comparing the blacks in terms of a white culture. Now they might excel us in terms of a black culture. There are a lot of things the black people do which are probably innately superior to the white culture in some ways, like some of their

Integration

Integration, whatever your preconception is, all over the country, whether North or South, is not working. It is a dismal failure. Take, for evidence, school studies about performance of students in integrated schools and non-integrated schools. You can take the whole spectrum — you can take the violence . . . The only reason Boston is in the news is because Boston is the place where all this integration started . . . The same things are going on all over this country. Integration has only brought strife; it's only brought mutual distrust among the races; it's only brought a lowering of educational standards.

It's the truth, but how many times do you hear that kind of idea expressed in the national media? No. Every time you watch the media, it's like "Room 222" or whatever. Everything's hunky dory.

American history

People say to me, "America was founded

States was founded by white Christians and intended to be a white, Christian, western civilization. You look at the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. There was not one black or Jew who wrote or signed these documents."

A tent preacher capitalizes on the fear of an angry God. Duke and the Klan capitalize on the fear that white males have of being disenfranchised. The economic severity of lower and lower-middle class life gives a strong basis for that belief. Unemployment and double-digit inflation frighten people. Somebody must be responsible.

"The business-oriented Jews have a disproportionate control over the affairs of our country," Duke said in an interview before the Thursday luncheon. "What is really appalling is that they control the most influential media in the U.S. — television. "Every network, ABC, CBS and NBC, is owned by Jews. You might say, 'Well, so what?' Well, don't you think the affairs of the Middle East are reported in a slanted manner when those who report the news to the American people are all pro-Israel? Think about it. "I have been to Israel and it's the most racist state I've ever seen. The blacks who think that the Jews love and admire them better think twice. The Israelis won't even allow blacks to ride public buses. "Religion is not the question. We are not against all Jews by any means. It is a question of blood-line and to which country the Jewish people of this

will begin to be looked down upon and hated, just because they are different."

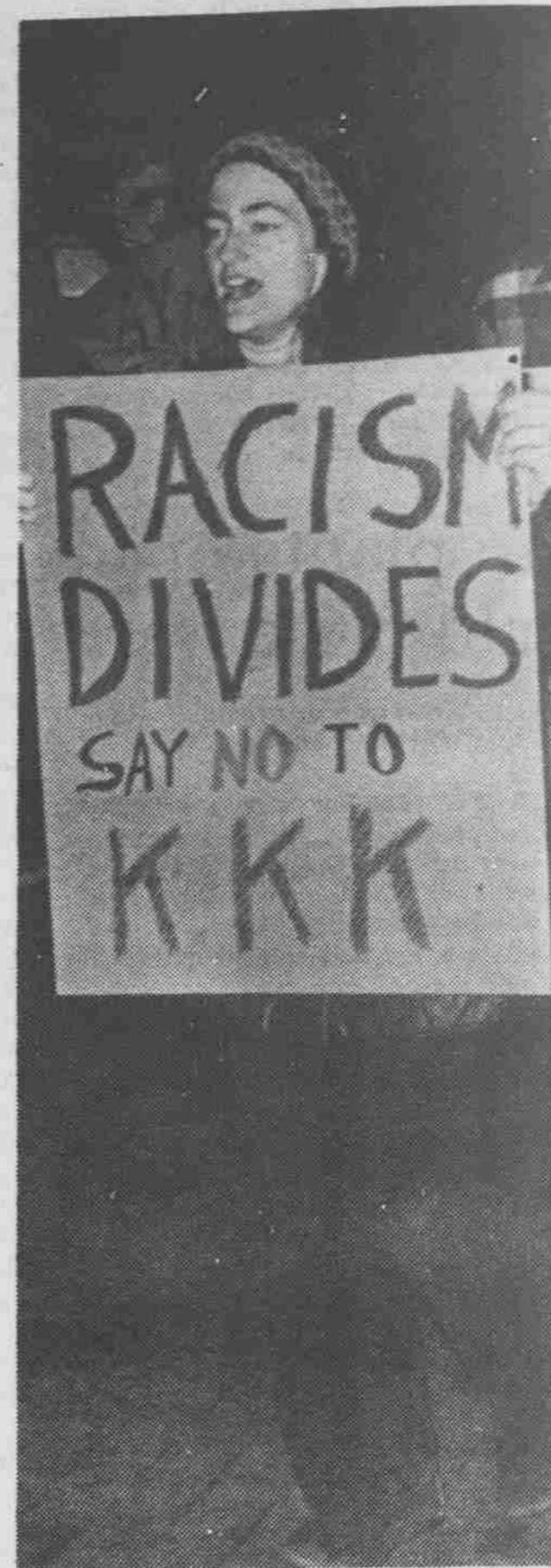
Duke insisted that the Klan is not anti-black. "We accept the black race and their culture, but we do not feel that they fit well in a society like ours, which was intended from the start to be a white, Christian civilization."

"This is not to say that the black race is inferior to the white race at all. I think the white race, for instance, is far inferior to the blacks in terms of African lifestyles and cultures."

Integration, he said, is against the best interests of the white and black races. "Integration hurts the quality of life in any given society. The whites don't want integration and the blacks, especially, don't want it."

"Look at the quality of the public schools since integration has taken place. They have gone down tremendously and no one can deny that fact. Integration spurs violence and hatred. South Boston, for instance, wouldn't have had all that violence if the schools had been kept as they were. And those people in Boston are not giving in to the courts. They see now what the Southerners have been going through and they're not going to put up with it."

Duke elaborated on the separation of the races ideal. "We would give the blacks free transportation to their new nation, also land, money, new homes and cars and every possible convenience. By doing this, we would still come out ahead financially because we wouldn't be paying out welfare checks to those mothers, if you can call them mothers, who have hundreds of



While protestors outside persisted.

thousands of illegitimate pickaninnies."

Duke was questioned on the rashness of the previous statement and replied, "It's true. Go to the records. You'd be surprised on the number of women who have illegitimate children in the United States and receive greater amounts of money for the more children they have. "And who pays for it? The white taxpayers. I am telling the truth and no one can deny it."

Duke denied rumors that the Klan is dying. "It's growing, especially on college campuses and urban areas. College students are becoming interested because they have been exposed to integration in high school and they know how it doesn't work."

Duke claimed that the Klan is already in many facets of the U.S. government today. "I know many Klansmen who are in the House of Representatives and Senate of this nation. And believe me, there will be more running for office in '76."

"I believe in what I'm saying because it's the truth. I believe in the white people. We have never been defeated and we will not fall this time. As long as I have blood in my body and a breath of air in my lungs, I shall see to it that this country becomes a nation for my people, for whom it was intended."

Insight

mongering community. Those people are starting to stand up. They didn't mind it when the South had it, but then they got a dose of it and they found out they didn't like it. They have a bad taste in their mouth and they are fighting it.

All over this country the same thing is happening. The white man may be down in this country, but he's not out.

Jews

The Jews have a tremendous campaign of encouraging race-mixing in this country. They want to destroy both races' identity. They have been in our civilization now for 3,000 years, and they haven't mixed; they're still a separate entity.

Look, people tell me again and again, "They're just a religion; they're not a race."

rhythmic methods in Africa. I'll tell you this, I believe the black man is innately superior to the white man in the ability to play basketball.

We're not anti-black. We don't want to oppress them in any way whatsoever. We feel like the only way they can become what they can become is to have a control over their own destiny. And this means to have a control over their own lives, and not with white interference.

Separation. Not even segregation — separation is what we're trying to strive for. Where they control their own destinies. Where no white person tells the blacks what they should think, what they should wear, what kind of music they should listen to, what history they should study, or whatever.

on everybody being equal." And that's not true.

America was founded by white people. In fact, every signer of the Declaration of Independence was a white Christian, and most of them owned slaves. They weren't talking about equality of races . . . The First Article of the Constitution equates the Negro as three-fifths of a person. This is what our founding fathers felt . . . The founding fathers of this country were racists. This country was built on racism.

The Klan

The Klan is in no way illegal. They've abolished the Un-American Activities Committee list, thank gosh. And more than that, some of the government agencies that have investigated the Klan, especially state agencies, have found the Klan not to be in any way subversive, or in any way un-American. A good example is the Louisiana Un-American Activities Committee, which investigated the Klan a few years ago. And their report stated they thought the Klan one of the most patriotic groups, one of the most native, pro-American-type groups in the country.

Q. Mr. Duke, I've heard there are many factions of the Klan — which one do you belong to or represent?

A. Our organization is the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Q. There are many local and state organizations around?

A. Certainly, certainly. There are many independent Klan groups also, around the country —

Q. Like UKA?

A. Yeah, for instance, United Klans of America, which is quite active in North Carolina. By the way, I don't feel anything bad about the other Klans; I think they do a good job. Our Klan is more toward urban areas, more oriented to, for instance, students and things like that.

Q. Is your group the largest?

A. I'd say it's about neck and neck, but we're growing real fast, us and the UKA.

Q. What's the Klan's objective in having a presidential candidate, Dale Reusch?

A. Well, that's not our candidate. That's just some fellow in a very small Klan organization that got a lot of publicity. We don't have a candidate. The only person I could possibly even support would be George Wallace.

Special thanks to Tom Wright and Ellen Horowitz for taping and transcribing (respectively) David Duke's remarks of last Thursday night.

Klan history is grim tale

Southern nights were warm and full of terror during the late 1860's. The moons hung low and dust soon settled on deserted roads. No one traveled after dark — especially if you were black. For after sundown, twelve-foot spectres in pale garb galloped the countryside on horses with muffled hooves.

With pumpkin heads and candlelit eyes, these manufactured ghosts hunted down newly-freed and unsuspecting blacks, intending to scare them into submission.

In the beginning, this was all the Ku Klux Klan was meant to be — six men in Pulaski, Tenn. who used practical jokes and organized scare tactics for their own amusement. Originally called the Ku Kloi (from the Greek word "ku klos" meaning "band or circle"), the secret society's antics spread in popularity.

In 1868, 550,000 members were reported. Dens were organized from Virginia to Texas, and the name was changed to the Ku Klux Klan. The society's purpose changed, too. The white-robed Klan now murdered, tortured, kidnaped and pillaged. Although prejudiced to the extreme, racism was not the sole reason for their actions. Many white Republicans were terrorized. The Klan also operated because of political reasons. Their whole system reflects this. The South is "The Invisible Empire" ruled by a Grand Wizard and his ten Genii. The Empire is divided into realms or states which are under the jurisdiction of the Grand Dragon and eight Hydras. Congressional districts are "dominions" reigned over by Grand Titans and their six Furies. A Grand Cyclops and two Night Hawks rule the local organizations or dens.

The days of night riders are gone. Even the Klan has been modernized. Now the grand men, minus hoods, try to speak at universities.

— Liz Skillen



Staff photo by Charles Hardy

Jokers inside, donning traditional Klan robes enhanced by smelly faces, added to the barrage of heckling Duke faced.