

Duke

Racist 'politician' once again seizes the national spotlight

David Duke, former founder and president of the National Association of the Advancement of White People, announced his intentions Tuesday to run for the Republican Presidential nomination.

With his announcement, Duke virtually crippled the reputation of the Republican party, and made the United States the laughing stock of the world.

David Duke, in his attempts to gain voters and funds, will have a profound and humiliating effect on President Bush's re-election campaign, and in the process of doing this, will bring the South crumbling to its knees.

In the past year, Duke has become the focal point of the American political scene and has proved that any type of prejudice in America will find its way into the public scene.

So, the question comes down to this. Who are we to blame for this mess?

The voters of Louisiana? The American political system? David Duke? Tige Watts?

Nope. None of the above.

The only blame for this matter should be directed toward the national media. As print and broadcast publications, the media created a virus that spread so quickly, it became inevitable to stop.

Granted, the job of the media is defined as the nation's watchdog. But, in retrospect, it seems too incredible that the media added gallons of fuel to Duke's fire, without even thinking of the consequences it would bring.

Yes, the Duke story and others like it should be presented as prominent and recognized issues, mainly so that citizens of this country may be educated and well-informed mammals.

But in the future, as the former Ku Klux Klan leader begins his road and campaign to the White House, the nation's media watchdog should be prepared and leary of once again becoming David Duke's personal pet.



Mixed Messages

Congress has to share blame for troubles

Over the Thanksgiving holiday I listen to folks talk about politics and say who was to blame for the sad state of the economy, education, AIDS crisis, etc., etc.

Now I know this is going to sound really strange coming from me, but I don't think President Bush deserves all of the flack he's getting for the state of things.

A lot of people are saying he promised a lot of things during his campaign that he either hasn't done or done the opposite of what he said he would do. Well, since when was a politician supposed to tell the truth? I'm not condoning it, but they almost always have and always will. It's our fault if we believed him and voted for him.

The point I've been slowly getting to is we have a Congress which has the power to make and enact laws, but they sure don't seem to be doing anything except bouncing checks, giving themselves pay raises in the middle of the night, playing politics, and pointing their fingers at President Bush for not showing them how to run the country. And I bet they want him to

DENNIS SHEALY

wipe for them, too.

I would like to see the president really put some effort into domestic issues, but if he's caught up in foreign policy or golf or whatever, then he is. Regardless of what the president is doing, Congress has a job to do, and they have the power to do it, so why aren't they?

Mostly, it seems like they're concerned with getting themselves re-elected, but hey, that's politics. But in a fairy tale sort of way, wouldn't it be nice if they actually got together (Democrats and Republicans) and came up with plans for education, AIDS, the environment (like leaving them there wetlands alone), the homeless and the sagging economy? I fail to see why they claim they need to have the President as a leader. If a domestic issue needs ad-

ressing, then it needs addressing, regardless of what Bush is up to or what party a congressman/woman belongs to.

When there's a job to do, they should get to it. I realize the need to debate the pros and cons of any new piece of legislation, but it shouldn't be that hard to reach a reasonable compromise and get it passed. Maybe everyone in congress needs to be hypnotized so imperative domestic issues look like pay raises. I bet it wouldn't take them long to get some things done.

I certainly don't think this applies to all congressmen/women; there are probably a few who have the nation's interest at heart, but there are probably a lot more who are more concerned about making sure their own agendas are met. Congress' job is to run the country and the president's job is primarily to handle foreign policy. Even if I don't like George Bush and basically all of his policies, at least he's doing his job. It seems like more of America needs to start asking Congress what they're waiting for and remind them of what happens to loafers in the real world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Greek column unfair, wrong

To the editor:

After Wednesday's Viewpoint piece on Sigma Chi's Derby Days, I feel obligated to write in and correct the inaccuracies that were printed. First and foremost, I take offense to the statement that the sororities "spend the week kissing up to Sigma Chi's to earn points toward winning Derby Days." This is simply not true and is an insult to the sororities that work so hard during the week. Points are awarded to the sorority that wins each event during the week, not by kissing up to Sigma Chi's.

Sigma Chi has always recognized and appreciated the hard work and effort that the sororities put forth during the week. Thousands of dollars are raised for local and national charities thanks to their participation. The writer of Wednesday's piece was completely wrong in saying "The winning sorority gets its name on a check to Sigma Chi's philanthropy." The fact of the matter is that the top three sororities get a check in their name donated to the philanthropy of their choice. Thirty percent of all the money raised goes to charities that the sororities choose.

Derby Days would not happen every year without the sororities, but to go so far as to say that "Sigma Chi hardly deserves credit for most of the week" is ridiculous. The brothers spend the entire semester planning, organizing and running the week's events.

The writer said "alcohol was easily accessible to those underage." That person was obviously not at the events to see the door-men at Pug's and B.L. Rooster's card people at the door and make

follow-up checks through the crowds.

The comments about the event "Sorority Feud" are well taken, however, some things need to be cleared up. In the survey that was asked to the sorority members it was made clear that if they deemed any question inappropriate, answer it "offensive." Several of the questions were left out of the event because a few people answered in this way.

Finally, it is important to remember that participation during the week is entirely voluntary. Nobody is twisting the sororities' arms to compete. If the week was truly degrading or insulting to women why would they keep competing? I believe that the vast majority of sorority members see the week as a lot of fun, full of healthy competition and most importantly for a great cause, charity.

I hope that in the future the writer will get his/her facts straight before criticizing an event that so many people work so hard to make a success.

Brian Williams
Derby-Days Chairman

Writer wrong about shuttle

To the editor:

I would like to write in response to Greg Rickabaugh's editorial about the Carolina Shuttle. There are many things in Mr. Rickabaugh's article that I strongly disagree with.

The first thing I wish to address is his comment on the lack of organization within the system. As a resident of Bates House I use the shuttle all week long. This year the system is much quicker and definitely more reliable. I used to wait

30 minutes for a shuttle. Once they arrived, they were always full because everyone had waited so long. Now I only wait 10 minutes with no problems of overcrowdedness because the routes take such a shorter amount of time. Since the reorganization of the routes, the efficiency of the shuttle is great! I'd like to bring to Mr. Rickabaugh's attention that most schools do not even offer such a service.

Next I'd like to address the safety issue he brings up. The incident where a girl's arm was stuck in the door last year was charged to the girl, not the shuttle driver. I do not have any question in the ability or safety of the shuttle drivers. I believe they do a fine job and are always very friendly. Maybe Mr. Rickabaugh forgot how friendly one of the drivers was when he saw him waiting for a bus after operating hours. The driver gave him a ride to his destination in his own vehicle.

The last issue I'd like to raise makes me irate. Mr. Rickabaugh should apply for a job with the INQUIRER, I'm sure they'd appreciate his ethics. The things he wrote about certain drivers could easily hurt individuals, not the shuttle system. He personally attacked people by telling bits of other people's conversation. I'm sure he knows that it is a journalist's obligation to let people know what they are saying will be printed. After invading conversations, he chooses to print what will serve his purpose.

I'd like to close with a personal message to Mr. Rickabaugh and anyone who agrees with him. If you don't like the Carolina Shuttle, you can walk. It is here to give students a service that is for our benefit, not to be criticized by an unethical journalist.

Lisa M. Jordan
Education senior

Honor society not to blame

To the editor:

In response to Lori Crowe's letter of Wednesday, Dec. 4, the USC chapter of Gamma Beta Phi is not to blame for not receiving Lori's dues on time. Out of 1,200 USC students who received invitations to our Society, hers was the sole incident of its kind. Prospective members were asked to mail their dues to Gamma Beta Phi's campus post office box. Instead, Lori left her check on the desk of the chapter adviser, Patsy Tanner, who was not out until after the deadline because of a medical emergency.

Obviously, this lack of blame on the chapter's part totally undermines Lori's assertion that USC Gamma Beta Phi is irresponsible. However, as a representative of the many satisfied Gamma Beta Phi members, I feel an obligation to address her claim.

The USC chapter was recently asked to provide the marshals for USC-Columbia Commencement ceremonies. This great honor, and the enormous responsibility it entails, demonstrate the esteem and trust which Gamma Beta Phi commands on the USC campus.

In addition, USC Gamma Beta Phi received the Distinguished Chapter Award this year. This recognition of diligence was presented to the chapter by the National Headquarters of the Gamma Beta Phi Society.

Those who are involved in our many service projects and educational activities know that the chapter is worthy of the honors it receives.

Summer Smith
President, Gamma Beta Phi

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