

KKK propaganda prompts forum on racial tension

By David Childers
California State University-Fresno
Daily Collegian

Fueled by the distribution of Ku Klux Klan propaganda on and near campus, physics professor Floyd Judd organized an "informational session" earlier this month to discuss racial tension both on campus and in society.

Flanked by a large replica of the KKK business card that was placed on his vehicle at a home football game, Judd and more than 10 student speakers took the microphone in front of a large crowd of interested observers to offer different vantage points on the existence and severity of racism.

"It's an evil thing, I take it as a personal threat," said Judd, a Caucasian male. "I was in the South in the 50's and 60's and I have seen what the Klan can do to people."

Judd's sentiments were shared by the vast majority of the students who took turns speaking in the open forum, but the crowd became visibly agitated when a Caucasian female spoke in defense of the KKK's first amendment right to free speech.

"They have just as much a right to spread their beliefs as all of you do," said Allison Cohagan, a junior majoring in Nutritional Science. Although Cohagan was not speaking in support of the ideology behind the KKK, that did not stop members of the crowd from yelling "where's your hood?" or "next time why don't you

wear your hood?"

After listening to speaker after speaker echo the same ideas, Cohagan said that her friend - an African-American male - urged her to go up and speak. "I was worried about what might happen to me, that I might get my ass kicked," she said. "But he told me not to worry about that. He said that if they really believed in free speech, and they had a problem with what I was saying, that they would be huge hypocrites. And that is exactly what I think they

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California State University Junior

are."

One of the crowd members that voiced displeasure with Cohagan's remarks was junior Dana Suarez. She, too, spoke earlier in the forum on the KKK. "I have come to accept that racism exists, that sh-- is institutionalized," said Suarez. "But why doesn't the KKK come forward right now? Come talk to me, tell me what the problem is. Tell me why you hate me."

Business cards containing an image of a hooded Klansman, a phone number for the KKK "White Victory" hotline in Roachdale,

Indiana, a local post office box, and the slogan "racial purity is America's security" were placed on vehicles at Fresno State twice in the last week or so, according to new Head of Public Safety Lynn Button.

Once they were distributed in a campus parking lot during business hours and then again at the football game. "My experiences have been that these type of recruiting efforts usually pop up every couple of years," said Button, a former commander with the Fresno Police Department. "We have learned, through contact with the Fresno and Clovis police departments, that these cards have been popping up around town over the last month."

While Button has witnessed the recruiting efforts outside of the campus, university President John Welty said that he has not seen anything exactly like the recent events in his six years at Fresno State.

"We have had some similar incidents, but nothing that I know of that was associated directly with the Ku Klux Klan," said Welty, who was in Turlock for a meeting and did not attend the forum. "We would not tolerate that type of hate-advocating behavior if we had."

Button indicated that an investigation is currently underway, with an official report having already been forwarded to a plainclothes detective on campus. The only infraction that resulted from the distribution of the business cards, though, was a misdemeanor. "The distribution of the cards was a

violation of the Education Code," said Button. "You can not distribute anything like that in the parking lots, that is a misdemeanor."

The only information that campus police have are some vague descriptions of those who were seen distributing. Button indicated that the department would continue to investigate as long as they received new information. But, according to Button, had the business cards been distributed in other areas of campus with the proper approval, the department would be powerless.

"The constitution does guarantee the right to free speech, and that is something that we have grown to respect," said Button. "That is the nice thing about America, that you have that right. Unless it leads to the causing of injury or something similar, there is nothing that we can do."

Welty concurred, saying that the university has "a policy that ensures the right to free speech in the free speech area."

He did indicate that the views expressed in the free speech area are never indicative of the university or its administration. "I think that I have made it clear that I do not in any way support any group that advocates hate, discrimination or intolerance," said Welty.

The presence of the KKK on campus comes just months after an African-American male, Malcolm S. Boyd, was beaten with a lead pipe across the street from campus. The individual arrested for the offense, Jerry Joseph

Hamilton, is a known member of the "Peckerwood" white-supremacist gang.

Boyd, who is in a coma and critical condition, was recently transferred to a hospital in southern California to be closer to his family.

"Malcolm Boyd was a victim, this was not a haphazard incident as much as people have tried to make it out that way," said Lamar Perry, a chemistry major who is a former president of the African-American Student Union. "And when [the KKK] says 'racial purity,' don't think for a minute that it can't happen to you."

While several demonstrations relating to racial awareness were conducted in the wake of the beating, and there has been no evidence of KKK activity in the six years that he has been at Fresno State, Welty sees no correlation. "I have no reason to believe that there is any relationship," said Welty. "It appears that there has been other reports of these cards in the area, and this may just be a sign of increased activity."

Regardless of whether or not the two events are linked in any way, one of the prevailing messages from Thursday's forum was racial reconciliation.

"I have been as much a part of the problem as I have the solution," said senior Sean Lucas, an African-American male. "I know that I need to make an effort to associate with more Caucasians. Because if I take an interest in you, I am going to make sure that nothing happens to you."

Jiang jeered at Harvard

By Michael Ellis
Reuter

BOSTON -- Chinese President Jiang Zemin is expected to be wined and dined by business leaders in Boston Saturday shortly after being jeered by thousands of protesters at Harvard University, organizers said Thursday.

John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., its eye on the huge Chinese market, has sponsored a luncheon at a posh downtown Boston hotel for about 250 senior executives and state politicians to meet the president.

Representatives from some of the top companies in New England, including Fidelity Investments, Digital Equipment Corp., Raytheon Co. and BankBoston, have reportedly been invited to dine with Jiang.

While human rights activists and as many as 100 hunger

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-Stephen Brown
John Hancock Chief Executive

strikers will be winding down their protests at Harvard, the business leaders are expected to engage Jiang in business matters and the Chinese economy.

"Certainly those people should be heard and I think they have legitimate issues," John Hancock Chief Executive Stephen Brown told Reuters in an interview. "I think sometimes it's forgotten how much progress they have made from the past," he added.

One of the world's largest life insurance companies, John Hancock has said it plans to open a joint venture in China within the next three years.

"When you look at the enormous potential for both insurance and financial services in that part of the world, it really is quite spectacular, and unlike many parts of the world, it is not saturated," Brown said. But the Boston luncheon is expected to be in sharp contrast to the Harvard visit, where the largest number of protesters at any of Jiang's stopovers during his one week swing through the United States are expected to gather.

Cambridge Police said they expect from 3,000 to 4,000 protesters on hand. During his morning speech at the prestigious university, student protestors plan to standup and turn their backs, displaying the words "Free Tibet" scrawled across the back of their t-shirts, organizers said.

"There are some Harvard students there who don't plan on just sitting there quietly," said Barbara Ayotte, a spokeswoman for Nobel Prize winning Physicians for Human Rights, which is also protesting Chinese policies during the visit.

Jiang is scheduled to fly to Los Angeles following his Boston visit. ST

Marijuana grows wild

Hemp weed found growing near Sorority house in Iowa

By Tara Deering
Iowa State Daily

Wild hemp growing near Iowa State's campus area is not unusual. At least that's what the Department of Public Safety says.

Brent Pringnitz, an extension program specialist in Agronomy Hall, confirmed the weed pictured with this story, which was growing in front of Alpha Chi Omega Sorority, 301 Lynn Ave., was a wild hemp weed.

"No doubt about that one," he said. Janelle Bott, president of Alpha Chi Omega, said no one was at the house during the summer when the picture was taken.

"Our house mom is here occasionally in the summer, but she takes trips a lot and goes on vacation," Bott said.

Since then the wild hemp weed has been removed. Bott said the sorority has groundskeepers who take care of the lawn, and she didn't know how often they work during the summer.

Jerry Stewart, associate director of DPS, said DPS finds wild hemp growing in various locations on campus.

"We recently pulled about 60 plants a month ago," Stewart said.

Stewart said for instances like Alpha Chi Omega, charges would not be filed.

"Usually charges are associated with cultivated operations," he said.

Pringnitz said generally marijuana and wild hemp are the same, but he prefers using the term wild hemp when the plant is uncultivated.

The scientific name for wild hemp is Cannabis sativa.

It is commonly found in rich soils along roadsides, railroad embankments, ditch banks, waste places, fence rows, neglected fields, floodplains, farmyards and gardens.

According to ISU's extension service, hemp has been cultivated for its fiber since ancient times. Originally it is a native of the temperate parts of central and western Asia, but it has spread throughout Asia, Europe and America.

The annual plants usually grow 5 to 7 feet high, but in a favorable environment they can reach 12 feet. Hemp flowers in July and August and reproduces only by seed.

Pringnitz said he doubted the hemp plant found in front of Alpha Chi Omega was purposely planted because it is in a visible vicinity.

Like other plants, Pringnitz said hemp seeds could have been moved to that location by animals, new soil or from other seeds.

One of the main reasons for wild hemp's abundance in Iowa, Pringnitz said, is because it was once a commercial crop.

Although many people know of hemp because of its negative use as a drug (marijuana), around the time of World War II it was used for fiber and seed.

The fiber was used in sailcloths, twine, upholstery webbing, belt webbing, rope, carpet yarns, carpet thread, sacking, bagging, paper and cordage.

Hemp was informally named galloweed, neckweed and gallowgrass because the high-quality rope made from it is often used in official executions.

Hemp seed is also used to feed caged birds and poultry.

Pringnitz said there has been talk about bringing back hemp as a commercial crop, but legalities stand in the way.

When wild hemp is found growing on or near campus, Stewart said the DPS calls facilities planning and management to pull or spray the weeds.

"We call it ditch weed, because it is usually found growing in the ditch," he said.

DPS, along with the Central Iowa Task Force, perform fly-overs in search of wild hemp or suspected cultivated hemp, Stewart said.

"Occasionally we'll find a cultivated path, which is usually identifiable from the air," he said.

Murder suspect in dorm surrenders

(UPI)

SAN DIEGO- San Diego police say a man suspected of killing his uncle in Riverside County has surrendered (Thursday) to police after barricading himself in his girlfriend's dormitory room for almost nine hours.

Police say they tracked 22-year-old Elton Williams to the San Diego State University campus after authorities discovered his uncle dead in the Pedley home he shared with Williams.

The unnamed suspect, who is in his late 20s, was located by police before dawn this morning after they discovered the victim's car parked on campus outside the dorm.

The man's girlfriend and her roommate were able to leave unharmed, and the rest of the dormitory was evacuated.

A SWAT team was called in and police negotiated with the suspect by

telephone.

Police say the victim's estranged wife called the Riverside Sheriff's Department Wednesday because she had not heard from him in several days. Deputies forced entry into the house in Pedley last night and discovered the man had been shot and killed.

Riverside sheriff's spokesman Mark Lohman says, "It appeared the victim had been dead for a couple of days."

There was also no sign of the man's nephew, who relatives say had been living with him, or the victim's white Honda.

After authorities learned the nephew has a girlfriend living at San Diego State, they asked San Diego police to help find the stolen car.

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constitutional authority to pass a drinking age, Canon said.

But the increasing number of drunk-driving accidents influenced state legislators to pass the bill, and Kentucky had little interest in challenging the law.

South Dakota and Louisiana, however, did.

When South Dakota challenged then-Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole in the '80s, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that "sufficient linkage" existed between highway safety and a drinking age, Canon said.

"It's a stretch," said Canon, a graduate student in Wisconsin when the state's minimum drinking age was 18. "Congress gives money to states on conditions all the time."

In 1995 minors Jody Manuel and Stacy Foret and alcohol retailers Burke Perrotti and Wendell J. Manuel sued several of Louisiana's top officials, including the governor and the attorney general, on grounds that the law was a form of age discrimination and that it violated the state's constitution.

The trial judge threw out the statutes against minors, calling them "unreasonable," and the state Supreme Court affirmed the judge's decision.

Yet after fiery criticism from editorial writers, religious organizations and alcohol abuse prevention groups, the court reversed its decision on July 2, 1996, "based on statistical evidence that 18- to 20-

year-olds had a higher likelihood" of being involved in drunk-driving accidents.

To John Rawls, that's bunk. Rawls, a New Orleans attorney, filed a "friend of the court" brief slamming the Louisiana Supreme Court for using discriminatory proof to hand down a discriminatory verdict.

"Whenever we judge people by categories, we judge them unfairly," Rawls said. "There's no such thing as partial citizenship in this country. If they can stop 18-year-olds from drinking, they can stop 70-year-olds from drinking."

Legislation can't stop the libation for some UK students, who say the 21 law is virtually unenforceable.

And when it is enforced, be it by bartender, police officer or store clerk, students say it's not done consistently. "I think they enforce it on a when-they-feel-like-it basis," said Shannon Clark, 18, a mechanical engineering freshman. "It's something that no one can do anything about."

"It keeps people out of bars, but it doesn't keep people from drinking. Just get somebody older," said Jody Larsen, a computer science junior. "There's so much alcohol floating around at (college) parties."

Bottom line: The law may be purely cosmetic but not subject to change.

"In some ways, this is a symbolic law," Canon said, "because people who are under 21 and want to drink, can."

Why 21 became the law

By Mat Herron
The Kentucky Kernel
University of Kentucky

To Matthew Heishman, the 21-minimum drinking age law sounds like the result of political duck-duck goose.

"I don't think you can pick an age and say, 'You're responsible enough to drink,'" said Heishman, a University of Kentucky first-year pharmacy student, who just turned 21 and said he hasn't been carded in four years.

Historically, arriving at the 21 minimum drinking age wasn't quite so simple. Restrictions on drinking, buying and

selling alcohol to minors date as far back as prohibition, the period in the 1920s when the federal government banned alcohol nationwide.

The government changed the constitution in 1964 to allow 18-year-olds to vote, affording this age group all the freedoms of being an adult "except the purchase of alcoholic beverages," said Norman Lawson, assistant statute reviser at the Legislative Research Commission in Frankfort.

During the '80s, former President Ronald Reagan suggested Congress threaten to withhold a certain percentage of highway traffic money unless state legislators passed the drinking limit.

"What's odd is that Ronald Reagan was the decentralizer, 'Get the government off people's backs,'" said Brad Canon, a political science professor who teaches civil liberties and constitutional interpretation at UK.

"But he had no (problem) whatsoever recommending that bill to Congress, and Congress had no (problem) with passing it."

The states who refused were docked 5 percent of the funding the first year and 10 percent in subsequent years, said Sandra Davis, staff assistant in the General Counsel Office of Kentucky's Transportation Cabinet.

Why go the highway route? The federal government has no