

EXTRA

The Duke Chronicle

Volume 64, Number 83

Duke University, Durham, N.C.

Sunday, Feb. 16, 1969

Knight, blacks meet

Some agreement indicated



President Douglas Knight

Howard Fuller, black Durham organizer, announced to a crowd of 500 in Page auditorium last night that President Douglas M. Knight would appear with him today at 2:30 to issue a joint statement.

Fuller and five black students emerged from a three-hour meeting with Knight, several administrative officials, and the Kerckhoff committee apparently tired but encouraged. The blacks "got some yesses and nos," a reliable source

reported.

Knight had agreed to negotiate the black demands earlier in the day when a crowd of 1000 students marched from a Page Auditorium student convocation to Knight's home.

Knight had originally intended to hold a convocation but he cancelled when the state Adjutant General warned of disruption by activist groups. The Free University and the Afro-American Society

then decided to hold their own.

Excerpts from Dr. Knight's speech appear on page four.

Leading up to these events were many early morning attempts by students and members of the Afro-American society to decide where to hold the counter-convocation.

At 9:20 a.m. Bill Griffith, Assistant to the Provost on Student Affairs, announced that the Duke Indoor Stadium would be available to the students for meeting purposes.

However, the Central Committee of the Student Liberation Front and officers of the Afro-American Society declined the offer to use

the Indoor Stadium. Instead, the Student convocation was to be held in Page Auditorium at 12:30 p.m.

The decision to convene in Page included a provision for a mass march to the Indoor Stadium if the gathering greatly exceeded the seating capacity of the Auditorium.

Just before the meeting in Page, President Knight met with 100 residential administrators, student leaders, faculty, and deans, and decided to speak over the radio to the University community at 6:30 p.m.

Approximately 2000 white student met in Page at 12:30; at 12:45 the Afro-Americans, led by Howard Fuller, spokesman for Durham's black community, entered and were greeted with a standing ovation.

(Continued on Page 4)

Knight absent

Students convene in Page

By Richard Smurthwaite
Assistant Editor

A convocation of the Duke University community attracted nearly 2000 people to Page Auditorium at 12:30 yesterday to discuss the events since Thursday and the ensuing student response, despite the fact that President Douglas Knight had cancelled his planned appearance.

At three o'clock, responding to appeals by Mark Pinsky and Howard Fuller, 1000 of those attending left the auditorium to walk to Dr. Knight's house. The purpose of the march was to "ask

for a just redress of our grievances."

Those who spoke at the convocation were those who would have shared the platform with Knight had the president appeared before the assembly, announced Neil Bushoven.

Howard Fuller, the Durham black leader who had accepted an invitation to speak at the convocation because "I know no geographical limitations when my black brothers and sisters are involved," drew a standing ovation that marked the longest applause of the afternoon. Speaking to white students, Fuller said, "I'm not

asking you to be ready for action on our account, but to be ready on your account. You must remember that if there is no struggle, there is no progress." He assured the audience that "This thing is about human beings; anybody who stands in the way of me becoming 'Me' is committing a crime."

"Most of you out there," he told the audience, "are white Uncle Toms. Most of you are getting ready to go into someone's office and when you see the sign that says 'Think' you'll just think the way that man wants you to think." He insisted that white students, like black students, are given no power to control decisions affecting their own lives. But he warned white students, "I don't want you to go out of here as some of you leave from hearing a minister and say, 'He really cursed us out, boy, do I feel good.'" He claimed that he was calling for white students to act on behalf of both black students and themselves.

Mike McBride, the recently-elected president of the Afro-American Society, enumerated the 13 demands of the blacks and explained why the blacks believed they had to be met.

(Continued on Page 4)

Task force will study Afro needs

A presidential task force appointed earlier this week has recommended that the University set up a Black Studies program and agree to a still unspecified number of the black demands.

The committee has been meeting almost around the clock since Thursday. They made their recommendations to the President yesterday afternoon after meetings with administrative officials and black students.

The committee is chaired by Dr. Alan Kerckhoff, sociology, and includes Dr. Richard Watson, history, Dr. Martin Lakin, psychology, and Dr. Thomas Langford, religion.

The group was appointed by President Douglas M. Knight Monday in consultation with the Executive Committee of the Academic Council.

According to Dr. William Cartwright, chairman of the Council, the idea for the committee came from the Council leadership last week and was originally to have been a Council committee.

However, he said, "After the Chronicle came out about Dr. Knight's meeting with the black students Tuesday and their warning

of an unspecified action in the future, we decided we couldn't wait for the Council to approve it at its next meeting. So we asked the President to appoint it."



Dr. Alan Kerckhoff

The committee has a broad range of responsibilities. It is called the University Faculty Committee on Student Concerns.

(Continued on Page 4)



Photo by Bruce Vance

Howard Fuller stood up during the student convocation in Page yesterday and said, "We're going." At that, Page emptied.

The picture above shows Knight answering some questions put forth to him by his visitors.

1000 confront Knight

By Ralph Karpinos
and Clay Steinman

A tired, frightened Douglas Knight said yesterday afternoon that he felt involvement of black students in the formation of an Black Studies Program was "crucial." However, Knight would not agree to pledge amnesty for the Afros who had occupied Allen Building on Thursday, citing the importance of maintaining due process.

He was speaking to a group of almost 1000 students and faculty members who had marched to the University House from the "Convocation" in Page Auditorium. Three hours earlier Dr. Knight

had decided to address the University community that evening over WDBS radio.

That decision came after the President, in his first appearance since the black takeover of Allen Building, met with a group of 100 residential administrators, student leaders, faculty, deans, and newsmen.

At 3:15, students and faculty members began arriving at the University House. There was only one campus policeman called to the House although Knight and other administrators knew that the crowd was coming.

When the group arrived, Knight went out of the House, through the

back, and appeared at the side of the group standing on a hill over the driveway. He first mentioned that the pressure the group might exert was not the answer. "We can't do it this way."

When the crowd reminded him of the police action Thursday night, Knight said: "I don't need you as a reminder. It was with a great deal of pressure that I brought the police in."

Knight then proceeded to tell the group what he and others have done to answer the demands of the Afros.

He said that the Kerckhoff committee had recommended the

(Continued on Page 4)

The Duke Chronicle

The Student Press of Duke University

Founded in 1905

Today is Sunday, February 16, 1969.

The first anniversary of the Tet Offensive. Cornpone Johnson and Dean Risk and Bungalow Bill Westmoreland—that unholy trio—are all gone, but the war goes on. And we're still praying for peace.

Publishing as well as praying on the Lord's Day, this is the Duke Chronicle. Volume 64, Number 83, published at Duke in Durham, North Carolina. News: Ext. 2663. Business: Ext. 6588.

A new freedom

President Knight's agreement to begin negotiations with the Afro-Americans may have saved the University from a potentially explosive crisis. It is the only sensible step, and we hope the trustees and faculty will learn something by talking with black students about the problems of black students.

We hope they have already learned something about the arrogance of power. If they will begin now to learn about America's cherished democratic process, perhaps the two sides can reach a common ground.

It is regrettable that the blacks occupied Allen Building just when President Knight seemed to be finding out about the urgency of black people's problems. It is even more regrettable that the President and the chairman of the board lost their senses temporarily and called police onto campus.

The administration has historically showed itself woefully ignorant of the problems of black students, and they have proved just as ignorant of the need for all people to make the important decisions that affect their own lives.

The faculty and the administration are both victims of a mind-set that says only the experts can run the University and that only the faculty and administration have the expertise to offer us. What they must learn is that each person is an expert when deciding his own needs. If students are allowed full control over their University experience, they will most often use it wisely. But they cannot really learn in any University until they are allowed to experiment and discover their own identity.

To this end, it is imperative that those in power agree to certain immediate black demands.

They should reinstate all students who flunked out last semester because of overriding social and environmental factors. And they should in the future allow students to remain through the second semester, providing adequate help whenever they appear in difficulty.

They should agree to a Black Studies program in which students have equal control with faculty. Then they should find ways of extending this experience to all other departments. The University should exist for the students, and it should be partly run by the students.

And they should agree to increase the number of black students in the University, at the undergraduate and graduate levels, by a substantial number within the next three or four years.

And, of course, they should grant amnesty to all students who were driven by a loss of hope to occupy Allen Building.

Beyond that, scholarships for black students, as well as deprived white students, should be substantially upgraded. The demands for a black student union, an end to police harassment, and the use of academic achievement as the sole criterion for admission of black students are also reasonable.

As these things are done, we must all learn a lesson from the last three days. We must realize that for people to act as people they must be given freedom to learn. If that freedom is to be guaranteed, the administration, the trustees, and the faculty must share power with the students. And it is then that confrontation will become unnecessary.

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—Throwing back the cannisters—

Where to now?

—By Clay Steinman—

Writing about factions of the University working for or against the realization of the "Good Life" is no longer appropriate after the events of Thursday night.

For under the present decision-making structure and under the present leadership of this University reason, good faith, compassion, and all that these qualities entail have virtually disappeared from our campus.

Our President and our Chairman of the Board have admitted ordering the police on campus. Warned by our "student leaders" of the potentially violent consequences of ordering in civil authorities to settle what was and still is essentially a University problem, Charles Wade and Douglas Knight revealed their beliefs that force and ultimatums as opposed to reason and negotiation was the road to solving the immediate crisis given the conditions under which Duke exists.

For Knight to admit that he ordered the ultimatum to be issued is for him to admit that he has one standard for dealing with "uppity" students and one standard that he advises "concerned" students to use when dealing with the University power structure.

No one can forget that Knight often repeated that, in his words, "It is now clear to the entire University community that decisions cannot be based on ultimatums...rather than on the basis of principle" (November 16, 1967).

It seems that it is not clear to Douglas Knight.

The faculty, which professes that their occupation is the education of students in the ways of reason as opposed to violence, overwhelmingly gave Knight a carte-blanche to use whatever force necessary to restore order on the campus. They passed a resolution of support for the police action after Knight told them that he would act whether or not they gave him support!

How can anyone who was gassed or clubbed on Thursday night treat with respect anyone who sanctioned the violence? How can anyone who was screaming "Pig" at the senseless, rampaging police return to class and learn from someone who supported bringing the cops on campus?

Knight's acts were unconscionable, the faculty's support of violence cannot be forgotten, but the complexity of the supposedly "friendly" administration should never be ignored.

The argument "I was only following orders" has been heard before. It is not acceptable. Are those who were gassed to be expected to have any respect for those who, by their inaction, are as guilty as Knight, Wade, or the majority of the faculty?

We were not sure if the occupation of Allen Building was worthy of support on Thursday morning. At that time we had some hope that reason and negotiation

was preferable to disruption.

We still had some hope that "The Good Life" could be achieved without radical action on the part of students.

But since then we have learned something from our mentors. And after all, we are here at Duke to learn, aren't we?

We were taught that to those in power violence and ultimatums are not correct procedures when used by those who do not have control. But they are proper and acceptable when used, however needlessly, by those who can legally use them.

We now reject the teaching of our mentors in this area, because we find that they believe only in "Law and Order" when it is useful to believe in "Law and Order."

No longer can we sit by and ask for reason and compassion by the leadership of Duke. We have learned that when threatened, or when wishing to prove a point, they use violence, coercion, and ultimatums to achieve this end.

If they can so must we.

The men who control this University are not reasonable men. They are frightened little men with frightened little minds. And little men cannot lead a great University.

So, as long as little minds attempt to run our lives, we can no longer talk about working for "The Good Life."

We can only respond to their actions as they themselves have told us how to respond: We must begin throwing back the cannisters.

Letters to the editor

Liberation not meaningful

Editor, the Chronicle:

The various articles on women's liberation had very little meaning to me as a girl or a woman or whatever. It would seem that what is inside; to discover one's essence as a particular individual and as a particular woman; to understand whatever this is and to find peace with it. If a woman can do this she is "free" in any system; she can transcend its myths and define her own place. She is free to "laugh freely, smile spontaneously, dance and live." She can love a man—not as an object to capture, nor as an oppressor—but with integrity, trust, and joy. Neither dominates; what pleases one is pleasure for the other, and the exploding plastic inevitable destroys all concern over who drives the car or opens the door.

Women have achieved this since before history began, and will continue to achieve it—managing to find happiness and fulfillment through comprehension of their own womanliness. Women who see their unhappiness and fulfillment as caused by male chauvinism and an oppressive society which is manipulating us all have a long way to go before they can become liberated from their frustrations.

Not all women smoke Virginia Slims—some happen to like Pall

Mall's—going to do something about it?

Anita M. Rhett '71

Knight to blame

Editor, the Chronicle:

President Knight is most directly responsible for the injuries that occurred to twenty students and five mercenaries yesterday. He knew the risk to university residents in calling in the local police and National Guard (newspapers and television are there for him to enjoy too). Yet he confronted "his" students with bulky robots who burned young girls' eyes and faces. His decision to place priority on "concern" over backing down instead of the interest of the university community licensed the local army to enter university turf and strike students into unconsciousness if necessary.

What is it that the "Black" students did that warranted risking one life? For one day clerks and accountants could not clerk and account. For one day the administration offices were closed down; secretaries could not sip coffee and tell racist jokes; budget meetings could not be held and record transcripts could not be

sent. All this the university was deprived of. So, a Black woman was run down; tear gas was thrown; clubs were used. President Knight needs to resign.

R. Turkington
Research Associate
Duke Law School

Whose building?

Editor, the Chronicle:

As a disturbed grad student (and an amateur theologian) I would like to direct a vigorous protest at the University Chaplain. Thursday at 3:30 Chaplain Wilkinson reminded the group of students meeting in the Chapel to "remember whose house" they were in, and specifically to abstain from smoking, wearing hats, eating, and using "obscene" language. After the events of Thursday evening I would suggest the real obscenity happened when police gassed and beat students on the steps of that holy edifice; that the question of "whose" building that really is, is still open; and that perhaps it is time to transform what has often been as dead and irrelevant as a crypt into the Jesus Christ Liberation School. The kind of stuff, if well-meaning paternalism expressed by the chaplain is precisely the kind of attitude that stands in the way of an effective faculty and student voice in university decision-making—the lack of which is the root of our current problem.

Charles Wallace,
Religion Department

Published every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of the University year except during University holiday and exam periods by the students of Duke University, Durham, N.C. Second class postage paid at Durham, N.C. Delivered by mail at \$10.00 per year. Subscriptions, letters, and other inquiries should be mailed to Box 4696 Duke Station, Durham, N.C. 27706.

Three days of campus turmoil

After they leave the cops

come—and so does the riot

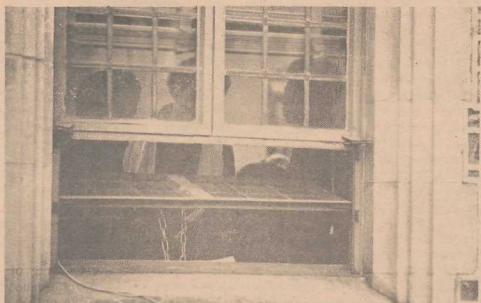


Photo by Jim Willcox

Blacks occupy Allen



Photo by Scott Sorenson

Students respond with

meetings and boycott

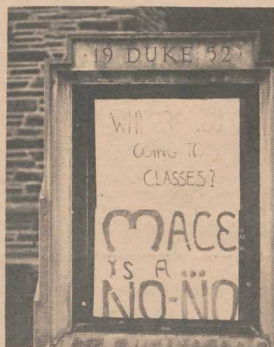


Photo by Jim Willcox



Photo by Terry Wolff

Since Knight won't come

to the students

the students come to him



Photo by Bruce Vance

Photo by Bruce Vance

And so they

met



Knight

Fuller



Photo by Terry Wolff

Chuck Hopkins stands waiting to speak as Dean Bill Griffith concludes his remarks to the student convocation in Page Saturday afternoon.

Local 77 meets today

By Andrew Parker
Staff writer

"Last spring, during the Vigil, 250 white students went to Dr. Knight's house and occupied it, and there was no gas or police action. Yet when 70 blacks occupied a building where no one even lives, the police were ordered, without

hours, to get them out. Why is it that you did this now but didn't at the President's house?" With this statement, Oliver Harvey, President of Local 77 non-academic employees union, expressed his outrage at the recent action of the University administration.

A meeting of the Union and

service employees council is scheduled for Sunday at 3:30. At this time, the members will decide upon action to be taken, including a possible strike, in reaction to the University's treatment of students and its lack of response to the employees demands. Harvey described the attitude of the workers as "real mad."

The Union has decided on a deadline of Tuesday for the beginning of negotiations with the University, but the school will not confirm any date.

Peter Brandon, counsel to Local 77, feels that the University has not been treating the employees fairly. He said that the administration "has been stalling by raising certain procedural questions as a form of resistance to the beginning of negotiations."

Brandon went on to say that should the administration not be responsive, "many workers simply are not going to be passive."

The nine demands of the Union and the Service Employees' Division Council are: 1) A wage increase and no more supervisor evaluations; 2) Extra pay for evening and night work and for work on Saturdays and Sundays; 3) Twelve paid holidays; 4) Three weeks' vacation for five years' service. Four weeks vacation for nine years' service; 5) All promotions by seniority; 6) Ninety days of accumulated sick leave instead of the present fifty days; 7) Reduction of workloads that are too heavy; 8) Hospital and Dining Hall workers to get work schedules for 14 days in advance; 9) Better training, health insurance, and pensions.

-Agreement-

(Continued from Page 1)

Neil Bushoven, SLF chairman of the convocation, opened the proceedings. President of the Afro-American Society, Mike McBride, was the first speaker.

McBride outlined in detail the thirteen black demands, explaining each demand fully.

Following McBride were various speakers including Howard Fuller, Dr. Thomas Rainey, and Dean Bill Griffith.

After Griffith's remarks, approximately 70 people left the auditorium. Discussion continued until Mark Pinsky, an SLF spokesman, suggested that the students march to Knight's house.

-Confrontation-

(Continued from Page 1)

"One of these is an end to police harassment—and after the other day, I guess you want that too." He answered the charges made by whites that raising the percentage of blacks at Duke to 29% per cent would force the university to lower its standards: "All you'll have to do is change the standards, which are now oriented to a middle class culture that lots of whites can't even relate to." McBride drew catcalls when, explaining why the Afros have called for an end to the grading system for blacks, claimed, "Everybody who grades us is white; so everybody who grades us hates us. We shouldn't be evaluated by grades given by white profs." He accused Duke of seeking only "black professors they can control" and blamed the professed rarity of qualified black teachers on the alleged selectivity of the administration.

Griffith, contending that progress had been made on the black demands, cited 12 examples of concessions made by the administration, including the establishment of a summer remedial program and the agreement to hire a barber that can cut both black and white hair.

Wade Norris, president of ASDU, defended the action of the black students and directed the assembly to look at the power structure and decision-making process of the university. "I entered office with the conviction that we could go into a meeting of trustees, administration, and faculty and if

your argument was sound and just, you could talk to them and reason with them, and you wouldn't have to resort to applying pressure. While I still believe that your ends and means have to be just, I don't believe you can achieve any ends through the present process without the application of pressure."

Norris addressed the issue of amnesty for the black students who occupied Allen Building, asking "Which is worse: students taking a building for 10 hours because they felt they had learned they had no other alternative—or someone, somewhere, calling the police when any person with any intelligence of experience would know that such a move would lead to violence." He criticized the "someone who was too incompetent or too intransigent" to stop the violence of the police.

Dr. Rainey, criticizing a faculty whose battle cry, he claimed, was "Update the bibliography," was interrupted by Mr. Foote, a physics instructor, who cried from where he stood in a side aisle of the auditorium, "Rainey, that's a lie!" Stepping to the platform, he said, "Duke is one of the finer of the second-rate universities because there are professors here who are too concerned with the students...they spend their time writing out lecture notes so you can read them!" Claiming that he was correcting a "lie" told by Dr. Rainey, he told the audience—as had Rainey—that a majority of faculty voted to support Knight.

-Students march-

(Continued from Page 1)

establishment of a Black Studies Program and that he would work for it. He suggested that many courses currently given in varying departments could be incorporated in the Black Studies program. "We have worked honestly and with good faith," he explained.

Knight also spoke to the demand for the black dorm. He said that a "living-learning" situation was being set up. He noted that it would be unfair to have an all-black dorm because "we do not permit all-white fraternities." He cited the administration's action in forcing all fraternities to remove segregation clauses as evidence. However, he went on to say, "I can't change human nature."

Speaking on amnesty for those who occupied Allen Building, Knight explained that no one was being prohibited from attending classes and that no one is as of now suspended pending due process. He said that he would not grant amnesty because "Would you want me to give amnesty to someone you disagreed with?"

Under pressure from the Afros and community leader Howard Fuller, Knight agreed to meet with

Afro representatives at his home at 8:00 to discuss the demands.

There was too good a chance he himself would "get mouse-trapped." Knight had said at the meeting earlier yesterday as he explained his reasons for refusing to speak to the group which would soon assemble in Page.

Asked why police were ordered onto the campus, Knight explained "We again and again asked the blacks to leave the building to discuss their demands...It was not an immediate move...I can picture a dozen other ways of handling the situation better, but we did the best we could. Here again hindsight is much easier than when you're in the midst."

Knight was questioned why the administrators didn't wait until some of the bystanders were forced inside by the cold weather. He explained that the timing was "very difficult." Dean James Price added that the threat of interference from more NCC students, "men circling the campus in pick-up trucks," and others influenced this decision.

The group decided to try to organize meetings of the residential groups to discuss Knight's address that evening.

-Task force-

(Continued from Page 1)

According to Cartwright, it will deal with other areas in which students are interested, but "obviously the Afro-Americans have the first priority."

Cartwright emphasized that the idea of the committee and its charge had been formulated before the Afro-American demonstration.

Kerckhoff said his committee would be "concerned with student matters that are directly relevant to faculty decision-making."

He declared, "If a committee such as this had been appointed earlier, progress on the question of an African studies program would be more visible. Students now have a committee concerned only with

them, rather than just the Executive Committee of the Academic Council, which is concerned with many questions."

"Although the committee can only go on record as being in favor of something rather than making decisions, its recommendations will carry much weight," he said.

Cartwright declared, "Their recommendations will carry the highest priority for the Undergraduate Faculty Council, which will be concerned with the African Studies department, and with any other body in the university to which they direct their report. This doesn't mean they will do what the committee says, but it will be darn hard for them not to do it."

Knight's speech

Editor's note: The following is an excerpt from President Douglas Knight's statement to the University community at large. The statement was broadcast on WDBS at 6:30 Saturday night.

In the meantime, however, I would like to speak positively to you, and not simply in response to questions or demands or whatever we choose to call them.

First, let me comment on the events which occurred on Duke campus last Thursday. I do not and cannot condone the illegal occupation of any building on any University campus for any reason at all. This sort of action, this sort of aggressive action, is no way in which to resolve a problem. It simply compounds it.

Second, I would like to assure each of you of my own long standing and deep concern for the position of black students on the Duke campus as well as the concerns of black students seeking an education on every other campus in this country. Now this is not simply an abstract or official sensitivity. It has already resulted in a number of specific actions on the Duke campus in recent months, and it is our intention that it result in other tangible achievements in the future as they are possible for the University, its faculty, and its students.

To aid in developing our intention fully a committee chaired by Dean Griffith was formed last October and another major committee under the chairmanship of Alan Kerckhoff was constituted early this past week. Their deliberations have occupied most of the intervening days, and they have developed several proposals to which I am personally giving my full attention. The University has a very real concern in these matters. It has made a good deal of honest effort and recognizes at the same time that a great deal must still be done to create within our whole range of learning experience programs which are meaningful and significant, not only for the black students of Duke University but for all students here.

I regret more than I can ever tell any one of you that it was necessary to bring police onto the campus in order to secure Allen Building last Thursday, but no honest choice was made evident to us during the ten hours in which we tried to work with the situation and in which we proposed a great variety of possible solutions to those occupying the building.

I myself was responsible for the final and deeply painful decision to ask the police to clear the building for us.

Tonight key members of the faculty, of the trustees, and of the administration will be talking with a number of our black students in an effort to resolve problems which have led to our current situation not only here at Duke, but throughout the United States and indeed throughout the world. In the meantime, I depend upon your mature judgment and upon your sympathetic forbearance as we move respectively and successfully through a very difficult experience in the community. We shall be in touch very soon.