

Jones says no to Klan invitation

Fort Lewis College President Joel M. Jones announced during a news conference Friday that he will not allow the Political Science Club invitation to Ku Klux Klan spokesman Shawn Slater to stand.

Following is his statement:

"As a liberal arts institution, Fort Lewis College has a long history of strong commitment to freedom of speech and unfettered dialogue. We intend to continue this commitment because academic freedom, civil discourse, and First Amendment rights are inherent in our institutional identity.

"Integral also to Fort Lewis College's identity from our inception is the commitment to multicultural education, antedating by decades the influence of the Civil Rights Act, Equal Employment Opportunity, and Affirmative Action. Our commitment, constitutional in nature, renders a true singularity to us as a public institution - and makes this a unique educational environment in both its diversity and its

discourse.

"Bringing all of these issues to resolution involves a balancing test, which must acknowledge that the compelling concern of this college has to be the overall safety and well-being of our campus constituencies and their ability to pursue their educational goals without traumatic disruption.

"To date our continuing concern about security remains paramount. We have been advised by our lead local law enforcement official that adequate security is not available. We remain convinced that the appearance of this spokesman for the Ku Klux Klan would constitute an imminent endangerment to the health, safety and welfare of this collegiate community. In light of all the information presented to us at this point, and in view of the fact that we must exercise the ultimate personal responsibility to protect human life and well-being, we cannot allow this invitation to stand."

March 2, 1992

8-92

Plans shape up for March racial awareness forum

Durango law enforcement agencies have been working with Fort Lewis College officials and Political Science Club members to plan for the March 17 forum on racial awareness.

The forum "America in the 1990s: Separatism or Cultural Diversity?" will be from 3:30 to 5:45 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, in the FLC Fieldhouse.

The forum will include Judith Berg, widow of slain radio talk-show host Alan Berg; Jorge Amaya with LULAC; former Black Muslim Usamah Zaid; and Ku Klux Klan spokesman Shawn Slater. Durango lawyer Jeff Deitch will moderate.

Tickets for faculty, staff and students will go on sale from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 5, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday, March 6, in the College Union Building. Tickets are \$5 for faculty, staff and students and \$10 for college guests. IDs are required to purchase tickets, and they will be required again for entry to the forum.

The public may request to be placed on the invitation list by calling 259-5683 or 247-7349. The purpose of the guest list is to afford the public the opportunity to attend the event and at the same time provide a means to address security. Guest list applicants will be contacted by phone in regard to reservations within 48 hours of their original inquiries.

Only one ticket per person will be sold. A total of 1,200 tickets will be for sale. For more information about ticket sales, contact Minarca Gurule at 7452.

Because of violence associated with Slater's appearances in Denver, Durango law enforcement agencies and college officials are preparing a "low-key" plan to address any incidents that may develop on campus, said Durango Police Chief Hal Nees.

Following are some of the details:

Campus Business and Classes

Tuesday, March 17, will be a regular business and academic day on campus. Office hours will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. as planned, and classes will be held as usual, said Vice President for Academic Affairs Bill Langworthy.

However, classes will be canceled in the gymnasium and natatorium for the entire day.

Anyone who wishes to take the day off must use personal leave and must make the appropriate request to supervisors.

Campus Access and Parking Restrictions

Beginning Tuesday morning, the north end of Rim Drive, from Parking Lot S to Parking Lot D will be closed. Raider Avenue will be closed just south of Parking Lot D. Raider Avenue will be open to exit traffic only.

The Goeglein Gulch and Eighth Avenue entrances will be open all day.

The south end of Parking Lot L (Fine Arts) will be closed for media.

The west end of Parking Lot D will be closed beginning Friday, March 13, so anyone leaving cars on campus at Spring Break should avoid that area.

(Continued on Page 9)

Inside . . .

CAPE provides legislative update	Page 2
Athletic Director finalists selected	Page 4
Classified Ads	Page 6
Calendar	Page 7
Blarney Rock-n-Roll on March 14	Page 10

Forum

(Continued from Page 1)

Because parking will be at a premium that day, college officials encourage faculty, staff and students to park downtown and take The Lift to campus.

The college will sponsor a free day on The Lift for faculty and staff. Students already ride free.

Access to Forum

Seating for the forum will begin at 2:45 p.m. Audience members must show their tickets and an ID to be admitted. No backpacks will be allowed. Participants will have to pass through a metal detector for admittance.

The forum will begin at 3:30 p.m.

Protest Site

Durango Police will set up barricades blocking access between the gymnasium and the natatorium and from the natatorium west to the Crofton/Mears residence halls.

Protesters will be encouraged to stay in the lawn surrounding the amphitheatre.

Closed Areas



Rim Drive will be closed from Lot S to Lot D on March 17.

The west end of Lot D will be closed beginning March 13.

Raider Avenue will be closed to all but exit traffic only on March 17.

The south end of the Fine Arts lot will be closed for media on March 17.

Goeglein Gulch and Eighth Avenue entrances will remain open all day.

Police visibility will be kept "as low-key as possible," said Nees. Durango Police will be responsible for outside activities; La Plata County Sheriff's Deputies will be responsible for forum activities; and the Colorado State Patrol will control the campus perimeter.

In addition, Nees will appoint several "observers" to report on the event afterward.

Media Center and Credentialing

The Office of College Relations and the Political Science Club will host a media center in the Blue and Gold Room in the College Union Building.

The Durango Police Department will issue media credentials on Tuesday only at the media center.

Faculty or students who receive media requests are encouraged to refer media to the Media Center. If media request interviews with students and faculty, the Office of College Relations and the Political Science Club will coordinate those interviews with the appropriate people.

For more information about the forum and plans for security, contact the Student Affairs at 7331.

