

Ku Klux Klan opponents arrested in Southfield

By Jackie Klein
staff writer

Four anti-Ku Klux Klan protesters were arrested by Southfield police Saturday in a KKK demonstration outside WXYZ-TV.

The four were charged with assault and battery and resisting and obstructing police officers. They were released on \$100 bonds pending arraignment on the charges.

Imperial Wizard Bill Wilkinson and three of his white-robed followers were picketing the TV station, 10 Mile and Northwestern, to protest the cancellation of a Jan. 14 televised debate between Wilkinson and former Black Panther leader Bobby Seale.

The debate was scheduled for the "Kelly & Co." morning show.

Those arrested were among a group of 20-25 persons who rushed police lines set up to protect the Klanmen. Wilkinson and his followers were roughed up.

They also were pelted with rocks and eggs by members of the International Committee Against Racism, police said. Three police officers were hurt during a brief scuffle, which started at 1:10 p.m.

POLICE RESTORED order after the counter-demonstrators ran toward the Klan, said police spokesman Steve Zultowski. About a half-hour after the

first scuffle, another broke out.

Other persons driving in cars shouted obscenities at the Klanmen. One protester placed a sign across the street that read "Nuke the Klan."

A dozen members of the Civic Citizens of Southfield-Lathrup Village stood 10 feet away to peacefully protest, said member Eric Coleman.

Three members of the S.S. Action Group of the National Socialist Party (the Michigan branch of the Nazi organization) showed up after the protest, police said. They left when they were told the police had left.

Wilkinson said someone from the Southfield Parks and Recreation Department told him the Klan's applica-

tion to rent a meeting room in the building Saturday was denied.

According to a parks and recreation official, the Klan was unable to rent a room because all the meeting rooms were full. An antique show, bridge games, a review class of accountants and Little League registration had already been scheduled.

"KLAN MEMBERS were told a room would be available to them in July if security can be obtained," said

Ralph Richard, parks and recreation director.

"We'll rent the room to controversial groups when nobody else is in the building because we're concerned about the safety of bystanders."

"Someone could get hurt. We believe in freedom of speech, but we want to make very sure that every precaution is taken to protect our residents."

The parks and recreation building was closed to others during a recent workshop conducted by the S.S. Action

group in the building. The same procedure would be followed for a Klan meeting, Richard said.

Birmingham attorney James Lafferty, chairman of the American Civil Liberties Union Oakland County branch, maintains this procedure is "dead wrong."

"Southfield taxpayers have a right to expect a public building to be open. You can't lock people out just because a group is renting space for a lawful meeting."

WDIV gives "Go 4 It" awards

Every Tuesday, WDIV-TV Channel 4's "Purtan's People" will present a "Go 4 It" award to an outstanding individual in the community.

The "Go 4 It" award, named after the station's slogan, honors the efforts of individuals who help others.

The first "Go 4 It" award was presented to Max Silk, owner of the Leftfield Deli in Detroit's Corktown area, March 1. Silk is known for his volunteer work with many community organizations including the Focus Youth Center, Sunshine Montessori School and the Pope John Hospitality House for children with cancer. Silk also is known for his willingness to give a few hours work to those needy individuals hit by hard times.

Last Tuesday, in honor of Girl Scout Troop 1539 of Southfield and their leader, Marie Golke, received the second "Go 4 It" award.

Golke represents the dedication of nearly 8,000 Girl Scout Leaders in the tri-county area.

Anyone in the Channel 4 viewing area is eligible for a "Go 4 It" award. According to "Purtan's People" producer Mitch Jacobs, "Individuals will be chosen for their love and dedication to the act of selflessly helping other people in need."

Nominations for a "Go 4 It" award

Farmington leaders set revenue hearing

The Farmington City Council will hold a public hearing at 8 p.m. Monday, April 4, to discuss proposed uses of the city's 1983-84 federal shared revenue.

City officials expect to receive approximately \$50,000 this year, said Farmington City Manager Robert

Deadman. The federal money may be used for "any legal governmental purpose," he said.

In past years, city officials have used the federal shared revenues to pay public safety employees' salaries, Deadman said.

"Purtan's People," seen weekday afternoons 4-5:30 p.m., is hosted by WDIV-TV and WCZY radio personality Dick Purtan.

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