

# KLAN KOMICAL AS WELL AS KOWARDLY

(The federal government's impending crack-down on the KuKlux Klan has placed this infamous outfit very much in the public eye. Although the Klan in its various guises down through the years has been an ugly symbol of terror, torture and death to Negroes and other minority groups in this country, it is occasionally revealed in another and equally true light -- as a motley assortment of thoroughly scared ignoramouses, roaming the countryside in white sheets, sacrilegiously burning the sign of Christian brotherhood in an effort to intimidate fellow human beings of a different color or religious persuasion. In the following satire, Dick Schaap of the New York Herald Tribune, vividly etches the comical overtones attending the resurgence of this ungodly organization in and around Philadelphia, Mississippi, scene of one of the most dastardly, Klan-inspired atrocities of this era.)

4 means exterminations. But this sudden burst of non-violence does not mean that the Klan has gone entirely soft. It still authorizes No. 1, which means beatings, and No. 2, which means burnings. After all, Klansmen have to stay in shape.

These days, the Klan in this part of Mississippi is not in terribly good shape, what with the inconvenience of FBI arrests and the nuisance of a Federal hearing. This is sad, because the Klan here in Neshoba County is a fascinating organization. "I love this Klan," one FBI agent said. "It's the best damn Klan I've ever seen, it's so well-organized." The FBI agent is perfectly sincere. He loves the Klan the same way Belmonte loved a good, tough bull.

The Klan in Neshoba County has, according to the best guesses, 150 members. These members are split up into Klaverns--each commanded by an Exalted Cyclops. Since the proscribed strength of a Klavern is 40 men--their T/O & E is very strict on this point--Neshoba County boasts three full Klaverns and needs only ten more members for a fourth full Klavern. Of course, if the FBI should have its way, the Klan would probably lose a few of its local members. Then, to get up to full

strength, it would have to launch a new recruiting drive, which would be conducted by a Kleagle.

But first, naturally, they would have to elect a new Kleagle, because the local Kleagle, or recruiting officer, is one of the 21 men who have been arrested in connection with the murder of three civil rights workers. He's probably quite unhappy about this, because a Kleagle gets paid for each new recruit he finds, and a Kleagle in a county like this can make almost as much money as

(See KLAN, page 17)

I am happy to report that the Ku Klux Klan has declared an official moratorium on No. 3 and No. 4. In the Klan's numbers game, No. 3 means bombings and No.

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