

## We Attend a Campus Speech by a Man Working Against Our Movement

Michael Beard  
April 1976



The campus ministry sponsored a speech titled: "The Unification Church." They mentioned the father of one of our Church members, a man working against our movement, as the principal speaker. Many posters presented "The Unification Church" in bold type with cracks in it and a question mark after it. It purported to be a "true presentation of the Unification Church."

I had been told it would be an open meeting, but a few minutes before it began I was told it was not. "This is a closed meeting and we're going to state our side."

Before the meeting started, we handed out "The Truth About Sun Myung Moon" and "Rev. Moon and His Church." The whole audience, about 150

people, was sitting there reading them.

At the beginning of the presentation, the principal speaker said, "This literature you have received is not literature we have handed out, but actually there are members of the Unification Church here. How many Moonies do we have with us tonight?" About four of us stood up and I said: "We are not Moonies. We are members of the Unification Church." So we were immediately identified. It was really good.

The NBC film was shown and afterwards, two ministers stood up. The first one said: "I don't particularly agree with everything the Unification Church says, but what I think is more dangerous is people who want to have a law passed in congress against cults like this because our religious freedom would be impaired and denied." As everyone clapped, I stood up and applauded to show support for his concern about higher values.

The second minister said: "Although I disagree with many things the Unification Church says, there are two things about it that I consider extremely admirable. This group lives as a community, united together centering on Christ and God. And this group is actively promoting God's will. They are actively speaking what they believe, and this is something that Christian churches can learn from them." These were influential ministers who stood up for us and it was really beautiful.

Immediately afterwards, questions and answers began. By this time, the audience was aware that this meeting was unfair and the sponsors were not really interested in the truth. So people began turning to me to learn more about our Church.

One woman asked why we don't sue the news media for false statements against us. I said: "Because that's not our purpose. We're not interested in rabblousing. We're interested in teaching God's truth and uniting people with God."

Every time someone asked us a question, we responded with logic and love. So when we were accused of being demonic, everyone laughed because there we were standing right there, obviously not demonic. Our presence there was really powerful. It was very wonderful. The people were sincerely and honestly looking for the truth.