

# DUKEOUT IN DURHAM

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Did three white Duke lacrosse players rape a black exotic dancer in the early morning hours of March 13, 2006?

With all the agendas in play, does anybody really care?

DUKE-OUT IN DURHAM tells the story behind the story and finds that truth may be the first casualty of justice.



## The Duke Lacrosse Rape Scandal Orly Adelson Productions

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The truth is not known to anyone but Dave Evans, Reade Seligmann, Collin Finnerty and the young woman who has accused them of her brutal rape.

The prosecutor -- who's running for re-election -- says he has a strong enough case to proceed, even if his DNA evidence hasn't materialized.

The defense attorneys -- who have never been on TV so much in their entire lives -- say the case is all a sham.

Whatever the final outcome, the case has exposed some epic collisions in modern American culture: black and white; town and gown; rich and poor; privilege and plain; jocks and scholars.

Our POV into this maelstrom of charge and counter-charge is Thom Cooke, a producer for a cable TV show that needs to fill half-an-hour each night to feed the beast, dispatched to Durham, North Carolina to find what he can as fast as he can and get it on-the-air and keep it coming.

He steps into a world where guilt or innocence takes a back-seat to fast-food media. Speculation and innuendo become his sustenance and finding someone to go on TV is the easiest part of the job. There are black activists, athletic department boosters, feminists, politicians and lawyers by the dozen who know about the case only what they read

in the papers or see on Thom's show. But they all have opinions. Everyone in America does. Their often mutually exclusive POVs let us imagine events as seen from wildly different interpretations.

Besides the perversion of the story to the agendas of others, we will use the actual game of lacrosse as a metaphor -- from a face-off to a fast-break to a body check -- and see those terms on the playing field of public opinion. Because, you see, what's happening in Durham is a game: there are rules, coaches, stars, penalties, and, at the end of the day, it's not how you play this game but whether you win or lose.