

SASS *ph*

10 March 1970

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College Mail

Dear ladies and gentlemen:

In a letter of this date, you protest quite bitterly a telephone conversation I had prior to your arrival at my house. I should like to state categorically that the conversation amounted to this: a voice (I think feminine) asked if she could talk with me; I said that of course she could right then on the phone, or see me on Tuesday morning in my office. The person apparently preferred to talk on Tuesday morning, and rang off. She did not, however, in fact come in on Tuesday.

If your letter pretexts my foreknowledge of your demonstration, let me say simply that I learned about it for the first time when a staff assistant on campus saw a torchlight procession heading in the direction of my house, and called to say that I was probably about to receive visitors.

(May I repeat what I said to Mike Hudles at the meeting in Clothier this evening, that because I am somewhat hard of hearing I did not hear or understand everything said in the poem read at my house; I guess I got the drift. But I'd be glad to have a text if one is available.)

Finally, I have to say that as a human being I am, and will continue to be, willing to speak to anyone who wants to speak with me.

Yours sincerely,

Robert D. Cross

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SASS

Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society

Swarthmore College

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081

March 10, 1970

Dig it, President Cross:

We are hip to the conversation you had with a member of our community last night on the telephone prior to our arrival. Let us take this occasion to acknowledge our knowledge of your hypocrisy. Don't ever speak of good faith again.

In an academic community supposedly respectful of the integrity of ideas, you seem to be playing the two-faced game of power politics: not surprising, but certainly disappointing.

If last night's show of unity and strength was not enough to convince you that the entire black community is in fact unified and prepared to act for the principles involved here, we assure you that you will be convinced in the immediate future.

This is the split, this is the holy move.

Respectfully?

SASS