

Delaware County



Times

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COLLEGE

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TEN CENTS

Swarthmore Office Held By 20 Black Students

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By ARLENE NOTORO
Daily Times Staff Writer

SWARTHMORE — About 20 members of the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society (SASS) took over Swarthmore College's admissions office Thursday afternoon, staged an all-night sleep-in and remained in control today.

The group, protesting the college's admission policy for black students and the lack of blacks on administrative policy-making committees, seized the office about noon, forcing several employees to leave. They said they would remain until their "non-negotiable" demands were met.

They remained in the office today. College officials have made no attempt to remove them.

College classes, which resumed earlier this week following Christmas vacation, were being conducted although attendance seemed to be smaller than normal because of a series of student meetings being held across the campus.

The protest did prompt college officials to change today's all-day spring registration — which students had promised to boycott — to an individual regis-



BLACK STUDENTS meet inside admissions office after placing black poster paper on door window.

The protest did prompt college officials to change today's all-day spring registration — which students had promised to boycott — to an individual registration program which will continue through next Friday, a college spokesman said today.

About 900 white students voted Thursday night during a three-hour meeting in the Clothier Hall auditorium to support the SASS demands "as proposals" and to delay all college activities until Monday.

In another meeting Thursday night, faculty members voted to postpone the start of examinations to Jan. 22 but simultaneously deplored the "use of force and refusal to make use of rational procedures" by SASS. The exams had been scheduled to begin Jan. 20.

The siege of the admissions office, on the first floor of Parrish Hall, the administration building, climaxed a series of meetings begun last fall between SASS, the administration, faculty and the student council on the admission of more black students, particularly those considered academic "risks."

Swarthmore has 47 black students in its 1,024 enrollment.

Faculty members had agreed earlier this week to seek "a substantial increase" in the number of black students, including a number of "risk" students, in next fall's semester.

The teachers also supported the hiring of black administrators and counselors in an effort to make life "more viable" for Swarthmore's black students.

SASS, headed by senior Clinton Etheridge, 21, announced

BLACK STUDENTS meet inside admissions office after placing black poster paper on door window.



SASS CHAIRMAN Clinton Etheridge (left) and Don Mizell outline stand at press conference.

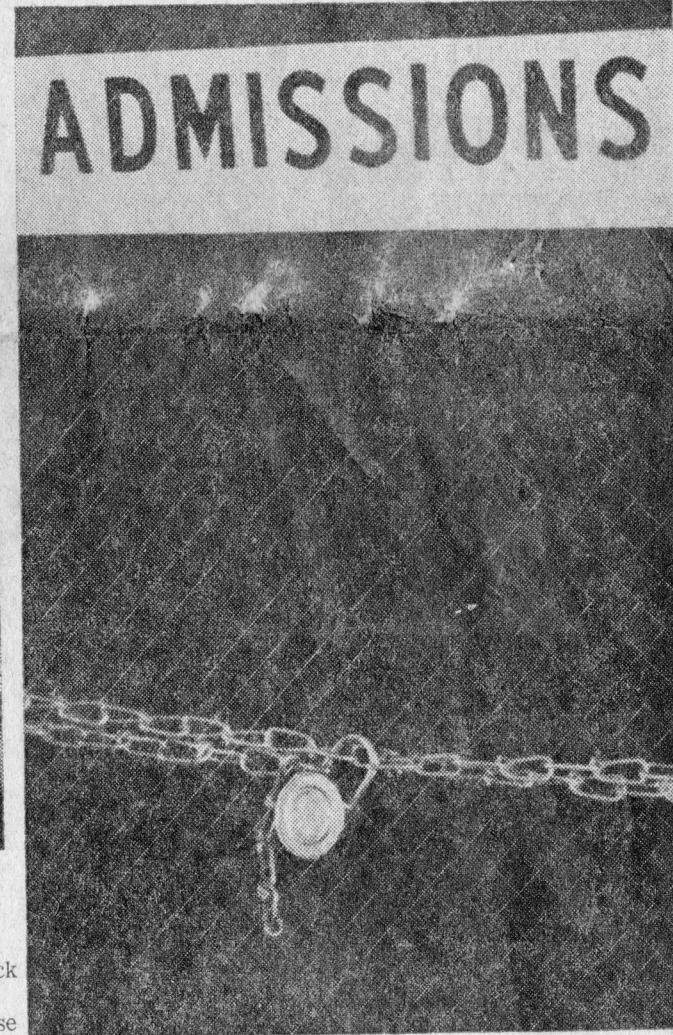
and practices involved in evaluating black applicants by a group consisting of the college's admissions committee and SASS members.

• The ouster of Admissions Dean Fred A. Hargadon if the college's plans are not

counselor solely for black students.

• Amnesty for all those involved in the takeover.

Following the seizure of the admissions office, a college spokesman said there were no



STUDENTS PADLOCK themselves inside admissions office on first floor of Parrish Hall.

to make life "more comfortable" for Swarthmore's black students.

SASS, headed by senior Anton Etheridge, 21, announced that he had blocked the college's admissions process through the takeover of the office because his decision-making process was persistently denied black people basis self-representation and must now be drastically changed."

SASS's list of demands include:

- The acceptance and enrollment of at least 10 to 20 black "risk" students by the end of the semester and the enrollment of 100 black students within three years.
- The review and revision of present admission standards

college's admissions committee and SASS members.

- The ouster of Admissions Dean Fred A. Hargadon if the admission changes are not made.
- Public identification and description of the decision-making organs of the college on every level.
- The inclusion of black students in policy-making on all levels, necessitating a review and revision of the present system.
- The hiring of a black assistant dean of admissions by Nov. 31, 1969, to concentrate on the recruitment, enrollment and post-enrollment support of black students and other minorities and the hiring of a black

involved in the takeover.

Following the seizure of the admissions office, a college spokesman said there were no immediate plans to force the students out of the office. There were no police at the scene.

That the SASS action was organized and well-planned was evident by the large number of newsmen and television equipment at the college less than an hour after the takeover.

Although SASS members sealed off the office with chain locks and boarded the windows with black poster paper, blankets could be seen in the office, indicating a sleep-in was anticipated.

For Swarthmore, a traditionally selective and progressive liberal arts college founded by Quakers, the student disturbance was the first to hit the campus.

The takeover was followed by a SASS press conference and rally attended by about 350 students, mostly white, in the "Commons," a large lounge on the second floor of Parrish Hall.

Etheridge and SASS Member Don Mizell, 19, told the group their action was prompted by the failure of the administration "to end discussion and to begin to implement programs."

Etheridge, in his statement, called for the discontinuation of all future college activities "until the college submits to us an acceptable program with specific plans for the inclusion of black interests on all levels."

The only instance of violence during the day took place at the rally when a Negro, described as a "non-student," roughed up a Philadelphia newspaper photographer when he refused to stop taking pictures

STUDENTS PADLOCK themselves inside admissions office on first floor of Parrish Hall.



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DESPITE TURMOIL, other college life goes on.

Swarthmore Campus Disrupted



SWARTHMORE Professor Thompson Bradley speaks to students.



WHITE STUDENTS wait in second-floor lounge at Parrish Hall to conduct rally supporting SASS.



SWARTHMORE STUDENT John B. who are supporting the black students.

Station

'Post'

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rupted



SWARTHMORE STUDENT John Bender types out statement by white students who are supporting the black students' proposals.

'Post'

Swarthmore Office Seized by Students

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of another Negro talking to the group. The photographer, Sam Psoras, was not injured.

The white students then moved to Clothier Hall and by 3:30 p.m. the auditorium was packed by about 900 students and faculty members.

Discussions on what efforts the white students would take to support SASS continued to about 5 p.m., when, at the suggestion of Prof. Thompson Bradley, the group adjourned the meeting to 8 p.m.

By this time it was apparent the majority wanted to boycott the college's semi-annual registration scheduled for today.

That boycott was apparently stymied when College President Dr. Courtney C. Smith reportedly decided to change the formal registration procedure and register students individually.

The students later decided to seek a delay in college activities over the weekend to provide more time to discuss the situation. At the same time, they asked the faculty and administration to take an immediate stand on the proposals.

The faculty statement said that group would continue the "orderly considerations to which it was addressing itself when the admissions office was occupied."

College Vice President Joseph B. Shane, admitting that the takeover "surprised" the administration, told reporters that Dr. Smith maintained the college "has never and must never be governed by demands or moved by threats."

Dr. Smith, however, has presented the demands before the faculty, administration and college board for their consideration.

During the rally, a letter from a Negro alumnus, John H. Morrow Jr., a graduate student at the University of Penn-

sylvania, was released stating SASS was "a group of dissatisfied, insecure, and egoistic black students attempting a power play for notoriety."

Morrow, who headed Swarthmore's Upward Bound program last summer, asserted "the whole matter of black admissions policy could have been solved peacefully, reasonably, and much faster had SASS not made its grandstand play."