

Dear Swarthmore,

1/17/69

Today I read of the death of Courtney Smith. I enclose a clipping from our local paper which ^{as a rule} ignores 90% of the ^{material} ~~press~~ that comes in on U.P.I. ~~and a~~
~~note.~~

Almost my only personal encounter with Dr. Smith was one evening when the fire horn had been blowing ~~of~~ the campus signal for some minutes and I was heading through Trexys garden from my apartment over to campus to see what gave. At the fork of the path I met Dr. Smith and his only remark I can remember was some thing to the effect that the fire ~~or~~ horn bothered him now (it was not long after the great Parish Annex fire of 1956 and the Chemistry Building fire). At least on that occasion the fire was minor.
~~The UP~~ UPI refers to "Racially troubled Swarthmore College". This makes me feel proud for Swarthmore,

for if Swarthmore were not racially troubled it could ~~too~~ hardly qualify as a part of America.

Last Saturday UPI quoted Joe Shane as saying Swarthmore "must never be governed by demands or threats." That statement quoted that way sounded bad to me because for 400 years the blacks have been governed by much worse than demands and threats, namely jail and lynchings and to me this ~~easily~~ easily explains a good deal of over-reaction (lovely new term!) on the part of blacks. It means the white community ~~must~~ should at the very least listen patiently and maybe even ~~to~~ lean considerably backward to help move to a more equitable future. ~~At the least~~ I heartily support a policy of not using force to remove the protesting blacks from Parrish, and suggest that if Swarthmore is to stay in the cutting edge of progress that it do increase black enrollment even if that means

100% scholarships for most and that the children of some white alumni friends would have to be turned away. OPI quotes figures to indicate that black enrollment is 4.6%. That is a tremendous improvement since I was there and I think a minimum immediate goal could be about the 11% of the national population and I have every confidence that Swarthmore ingenuity can do that without ~~reducing~~ reducing the scholastic standards.

These are not easy times and in dealing with ~~the~~ their problems, I am sure we will see that Dr. Smith has not lived in vain.

I wrote the foregoing some days ago and I can see I will not get it typed, so I'll send it anyway - apologies for that.

Yours,
Bill Young '57

1-25-69

Negro Students Control Several College Areas

1-11-69

By United Press International
Negro students held control of campus buildings at Brandeis University and Swarthmore College Friday and vowed to stay put until their demands are met.

Demonstrating students and striking teachers picketed at San Francisco State College. At a companion California college — San Fernando Valley State at Northridge — officials canceled a state of emergency which led Thursday to the arrests of 286 protesters.

At 1,800-student Brandeis University in Waltham, Mass., officials extended a court order calling for the eviction of 65 black students who were barricaded in a classroom building which housed the campus switchboard.

Meets With Students

President Morris B. Abram negotiated with students in an attempt to work out a settlement. A university spokesman said 90 per cent of the demands had been met. The major disagreement, the spokesman said, centered on a demand for establishment of a largely autonomous African studies department headed by a Negro.

At Quaker-affiliated Swarthmore College near Philadelphia, 40 Negro students sitting in admissions office said they would stick until they had their way.

The students, who occupied the office Thursday, demanded that Negroes be present at all policy-making meetings, that more Negroes be admitted to the school, that black administrators and teachers be hired and that the college grant amnesty to protesters.

College Vice President Joseph B. Shane said the 1,024-student college "must never be governed by demands or threats." But he expressed hope that authorities would not be forced to call in police.

The state of emergency was canceled at 18,000-student San Fernando Valley State after a meeting early Friday between school officials and militant Negro student leaders.

Heart Attack Takes Prexy of Swarthmore

SWARTHMORE, Pa. (UPI)—Dr. Courtney Smith, a Rhodes scholarships executive and president of racially-troubled Swarthmore College, died of a heart attack Thursday.

Some 25 Negro militant students abandoned their occupation of the college admissions office some five hours after his death.

Smith, 52, was stricken fatally with a heart attack at 10 a.m. while awaiting a meeting with a faculty committee studying demands by Negro students who took over the office eight days ago.

The demonstrators left the office, got into five autos, and drove off. A spokesman for the group said they abandoned their takeover out of respect for Smith.

Smith, American secretary of Rhodes scholarships since 1953, was pronounced dead in his office at the Quaker-oriented school by Dr. Morris Bowie, college physician.

A Swarthmore spokesman said Smith had been under "quite a strain" since members of the Swarthmore Afro-American Student Society (SASS) took over the admissions office last Thursday to enforce demands for increased enrollment of Negroes at the 104-year-old school in suburban Philadelphia. The admissions office is on the first floor of Parrish Hall, and Smith's office is on the second.

A native of Winterset, Iowa, Smith was graduated from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines and from Harvard University in 1938. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University from 1938 to 1939. Smith, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was elected president of Swarthmore in 1953, the same year he became secretary of the Rhodes scholarships in the United States.

Smith died in his office next to a conference room in which he was to meet with a faculty committee of three whites and one negro. He had set up the committee to determine the

of the Swarthmore Afro-American Student Society (SASS) took over the admissions office last Thursday to enforce demands for increased enrollment of Negroes at the 104-year-old school in suburban Philadelphia. The admissions office is on the first floor of Parrish Hall, and Smith's office is on the second.

A native of Winterset, Iowa, Smith was graduated from Roosevelt High School in Des Moines and from Harvard University in 1938. He was a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University from 1938 to 1939. Smith, a member of Phi Beta Kappa, was elected president of Swarthmore in 1953, the same year he became secretary of the Rhodes scholarships in the United States.

Smith died in his office next to a conference room in which he was to meet with a faculty committee of three whites and one negro. He had set up the committee to determine the exact nature of SASS demands on admissions and policy-making.

Swarthmore has an enrollment of 47 blacks in its student body of 1,024. Officials had said repeatedly that they would not use force to remove the Negroes occupying the admissions office.

Smith, who was scheduled to resign next Sept. 1 to become president of the John and Mary R. Markle Foundation, is survived by his widow and three children.

February 3, 1969

Dear Bill Young:

Your letter of January 17 has been referred to me. You will be receiving in a few days a report as to what has happened at Swarthmore during the month of January.

Yes, I did say that Swarthmore must never be governed by demands or threats and I think everyone here on the campus agrees with this statement. President Smith told members of the Swarthmore Afro-American Students Society that if they submitted their demands in the form of proposals that they would be considered. In fact, our Admissions Policy Committee had already issued a report recommending adoption of many of the suggestions made by the blacks.

Letters from alumni and parents, and yes, even students object to any group doing anything that would interfere with the daily operation of the College and I personally am sorry that SASS decided to take over the Admissions Office. They were wrong because the faculty was already discussing the propositions they had suggested. Alumni and others also think that the scholastic standards of Swarthmore should not be reduced. I hope the standards can be preserved and it will require a great deal of hard work and integrity to accomplish this in these trying times.

Believe me, we appreciate letters from people like you and we will need the help and understanding of all in the days ahead.

With sincere best wishes, I am

Truly yours,

Joseph B. Shane
Vice President

Mr. William R. Young
1560 S. Walnut
Casper, Wyoming 82601