

Bob
By now you
should have a copy of
my reply. It may not help
much but it will keep the record
straight. Bk

March 3, 1970

RAB
comment
RDC

Robert D. Cross
Swarthmore College President

Dear President Cross:

Dean Barr's letter of February 20, 1970 (re: a SASS lodge party) once again points out the need for a separate Black Cultural Center. His letter illustrates once more the problems involved in scheduling black activities using the existing facilities. Mr. Barr's letter also dramatizes the wide divergence of opinion between the Black student body and the College administration.

There were several points in the letter which the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society found regrettable to say the least. The first point is that SASS' rejection of the guidelines set by Mr. Barr in his September letter has been ignored. We again categorically reject the imposition of the white life style upon our mode of behavior. We sincerely hope that this does not signal the rise of more incidents such as those which led to the now infamous "Domingo-White Trial" of last year.

The second point that SASS found regrettable concerned the singling out of Black students for drinking. We found this to be very hypocritical since the vast majority of the Swarthmore student body drinks. Furthermore, in recent weeks there have been white-sponsored parties in the Lodges which have had minors in attendance and during which liquor was served.

The next point involved Mr. Barr's dismay at our occupation of "additional locations" that night. While we are not sure what "additional locations" are being referred to, we assert that since more space was needed we see nothing wrong in the utilization of unoccupied facilities. In light of the fact that no other use for these "additional locations" was planned that night, SASS does not understand why the College is so unaccommodating.

The Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society agrees in principle with Mr. Barr that for large social occasions extra watchman service is needed (take for instance the extra watchman service provided for College dances, basketball games, and frat parties). However, we found that Mr. Barr's reasoning had somewhat racist implications. SASS will inform Mr. Barr when and where we feel that extra watchmen service is needed.

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We must insist that these extra watchmen locate themselves in the general area only and not be present at the functions unless we feel that there is a need for them. In the past, these watchmen have had a habit of snooping, intervening and provoking potential incidents. SASS feels that their immediate presence would lead to an unhealthy situation.

In conclusion, the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society hopes that there will be no other incidents of this nature. We feel that such incidents could be avoided if adequate separate facilities for a Black Cultural Center were made available to the Black population.

Yours,
SASS

cc: Robert Barr