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The Phoenix

SUPPLEMENT

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SASS MEMBERS OCCUPY ADMISSIONS OFFICE

Yesterday at 12:15 p.m. the College Admissions Office was the scene of direct action by SASS. As Deans Hargadon, Thompson, and Barr headed for lunch at Sharples, members of SASS appeared at the front door of the Admissions Office and motioned to Mrs. Mary W. Dye, Assistant in Admissions, who had just locked the front door, to open it. She informed them that the office was closed for lunch hour and proceeded to the back doors to lock them also. Clinton Etheridge, SASS chairman, walked around to the back doors where he met Dean Hargadon. Dean Hargadon asked him to please let the one remaining candidate for admission out. As Dean Hargadon opened the door for the candidate, Etheridge entered and walked towards the front door and let the remaining members of SASS in.

It appeared that each SASS member had a specific job to do; black paper was affixed to all windows without blinds; the far back doors were chained and locked, as well as the side door leading to the bookstore. Mrs. Dye was asked to leave by a female member of SASS and she complied. At this time Deans Barr and Thompson returned to the Admissions Office joining Deans Hargadon and Creighton as well as Mr. Stanton of the Maintenance Office. At first the deans thought their presence in the office would be beneficial; however, because of their inability to open communications with SASS members at that time, the deans and Mr. Stanton complied with the SASS requests for their departure.

PRESS CONFERENCE CONVENES IN COMMONS

SASS had prepared a press conference for local newsmen in Commons at 2:15. A general college meeting was to follow. Mohn Benditt, working with other students, drew up a statement of support for SASS to be presented at the meeting.

At 2:15 Clinton Etheridge and Don Mizell faced a number of reporters and photographers in Commons. Mizell read a statement presenting revised SASS positions on the admissions controversy and admissions office occupation. The four new demands were: 1) that a complete description of the decision-making organs of the College be made public, 2) that Black people be participants in policy making on all levels outlined, 3) that the original SASS demands be implemented, and 4) that no disciplinary action whatever be taken against black people, both students and employees, who have participated in this direct action.

He explained that the Black students had brought the regular admissions process to a halt, and would continue to do so until the College submits to us an acceptable program with specific plans for the inclusion of Black interests on all levels.

After a number of questions from the press, and as the audience grew to fill Commons, the conference faded into a mass meeting. Benditt presented his statement, expressing unequivocal support for the SASS stand and demanding time for students to consider their situation. There followed a number of statements by, among others, Mizell, Mike Graves, and Sam Jordan, a non-Swarthmore SASS spokesman, asserting that the slowness of College response to their original demands had led SASS to see the issues at stake in a larger context. They and several white speakers urged the student body at large to join in trying to achieve more power for students in the operation of the College.

When Walter Palmer, a Philadelphian, stepped up to speak on the importance of relating College actions to the rest of the world, a photographer snapped one photo. Palmer asked not to be photographed. The photographer got set for another shot, but was grabbed by another Black non-student. He was soon released; as he returned to the audience he shouted, 'These are the kind of people you're dealing with.'

John Braxton, a student council and SPAC member, took charge of the meeting. Discussion centered around Benditt's statement. It was noted that no member of the administration was present. At about 3:15 the College engineer urged that the meeting be moved to Clothier for safety. The crowd complied quickly.

MEETING SHIFTS TO CLOTHIER

Immediately after vacating Commons, the College community reassembled in Clothier to continue discussion. The meeting was chaired by John Braxton, with the panel on stage including John Benditt, Ellen Schall, Greg Englund, and Joe Schoenfeld. Microphones were hooked up both for the panel and comments from the audience. Faculty and students discussed the merits of various actions to be considered by the students beyond the original Benditt proposal supporting SASS actions and demands and calling for a cessation of all college functions, including registration, until the present crisis is settled.

Lyon Evans and Greg Englund pointed out that the proposal contained two separate proposals: that of support of SASS and that of the role of student power in the College community. Lyon stated that before we act to support, or not to support SASS we should learn their justifications for the ultimatum and take over of the Admissions Office in view of the pending faculty vote on the Admissions Policy Report. Greg noted that the events were most likely planned in regard to these times to create a crisis situation, questioning the actual goals of SASS.

Nancy Feinstein proposed that College functions be postponed for a few days and the calendar moved back to discuss these matters.

At this point Thompson Bradley denounced the rationale of super days or weeks: 'Business cannot go on as usual.' Instead, he formulated the expanded role of student power in College structures and decisions. Bradley proposed a plan to discuss specific proposals during specific days of workshops. These specific topics included admissions, a student-faculty senate as a deciding body on College decisions, and the creation of a meaningful relationship between this senate and the board of managers to make their function more meaningful in College decisions. Bradley proposed members of workshops to report to a plenary meeting of the College community which would vote on them for a majority opinion. He added that the community should meet that night to vote on this proposal and establish workshops on specific topics, and for this business to be executed in the next two days.

Ellen Schall then called for the meeting to reconvene at 8 p.m.

MODERATES GATHER FORCES BEFORE MASS MEETING

One hundred students defining themselves as moderates met in Commons at 7:30 to prepare for the student meeting in Clothier Thursday night. The group, chaired by Tom Hammond, organized around two basic concerns: 1) that support be voiced for the SASS demands (which they saw as not in basic conflict with the Admissions Policy Committee report) while refraining from comment on the tactics; and 2) that the proposals concerning the consideration of the decision-making processes of the College be considered in the calmer, more rational atmosphere of a mid-February Superweek rather than in a series of hastily-planned, open-ended, all-College discussions beginning Friday morning.

The group voted to have Danny Nussbaum and Greg Englund present two proposals to the all-College meeting. The Nussbaum-Krall proposal, urging faculty to begin substantive action (minimally appointing faculty members for the committee to select a black counsellor and for a committee that would implement Black admissions proposals) was later adopted by the whole student group and was passed when sent to the faculty.

STUDENT-WIDE SESSION HELD IN CLOTHIER

Swarthmore students, meeting in plenary session at 8 p.m. last night in Clothier, voted to endorse as proposals the SASS demands of December 23 and January 9 and to submit these to the faculty. The students also approved a move to ask the faculty to postpone exams for two days, permitting discussion today and tomorrow.

Earlier in the evening a message was sent to the faculty meeting urging them to "immediately decide on implementation of the goals" embodied in the SASS demands; this message defined "substantive implementation" to be establishment of a committee for selection of a Black administrator or counsellor and a committee to establish specifics of new admissions procedure.

The meeting began with the presentation of four positions on the present crisis and recommendations for action. Midway through discussion of these proposals a demand for a vote on one of them led to the adoption of the recommendation on "implementation." The other positions included suggestions ranging from Greg

STUDENT-WIDE SESSION (CONTINUED)

England's "preparation for a Student Week early in February at which the issues would be considered" (subsequently abandoned by its proponent) to Lauren Brubaker's proposition that "all College business be suspended until the present crisis is concluded... and we decide on some other administrative body for Swarthmore." These two were never acted upon. Discussion, controlled at first by alternating between pro and con, became disorganized when students attempted to take the first vote. Audience reactions were registered with applause, hissing and occasional name-calling. Shortly after the final votes, approximately fifty "white radicals" walked out to hold their own policy meeting.

The remaining students empowered the originators of the proposals and S.C. President Schall to set up a structure for discussions today. Noting that attendance had dwindled to almost half of the original number, acting moderator Schall adjourned the meeting shortly before eleven o'clock.

FACULTY PASSES FOUR PROPOSALS

The faculty, meeting in Martin for four hours last night, passed the proposals which follow. Faculty spokesmen made it clear that the decisions reflected in these proposals were not intended to be taken as the faculty's solution to the problem, but that frequent meetings, including one this afternoon, have been scheduled for the consideration of the many other issues involved in the current crisis.

The faculty's first proposal was passed with what two members called a "strong consensus." It reads: "The faculty, in the midst of acting on the problems of Black admissions and a Black curriculum, finds itself faced with a resort to force and a refusal to make use of rational procedures. The faculty deplores the use of force and plans to continue the orderly consideration of the problems to which it was addressing itself when the admissions office was occupied. It invites all members of the College community to work toward the resolution of the present crisis."

When questioned as to the appropriateness of the term "force" in view of the events, one faculty member wanted it made clear that it is recognized that no physical violence, or force in that sense, was used in the confrontation in the Admissions Office. The intention of faculty members who supported this proposal was rather to preclude the use of coercive tactics in this crisis.

In response to Danny Nussbaum's proposal, which was passed by the student body and submitted to the faculty during the meeting, the faculty passed the following endorsement of that proposal:

"Pursuant to the enclosed proposal from the Student Meeting in Clothier this evening, the faculty views formation of these committees (committee on selection of a Black counsellor and committee to advise on problems connected with admission of Black students) favorably and recommends that President Smith meet with the appropriate student groups to work out the details concerning the make-up of the committees, the functions of the committees, the method of selecting, and other relevant topics."

The basis for this recommendation was that the faculty saw a widespread agreement in both meetings as to these specific courses of action, and saw no reason to delay their approvals. It was pointed out, however, that many other issues concerning the proposed Black students program, the admission of "risk" students, and so forth, had yet to be considered in upcoming faculty meetings.

In response to another proposal passed in, and relayed from, the Student Meeting, the faculty decided that: "The examination schedule will start on January 22 instead of January 20, and an adjusted exam schedule will be issued as soon as possible. (It is understood that deadlines associated with the schedule will be adjusted accordingly.)"

With regard to the rationale behind this resolution, a faculty spokesman indicated that the threat of "direct action" on the part of some white students had had nothing to do with the decision, since the impression received by faculty members was that a large majority of the students wanted time to think about and evaluate the various issues without any academic pressure.

In an attempt to obtain all possible perspectives in today's meeting, this proposal was passed: "The Faculty voted to empower President Smith to invite Swarthmore Black students outside of SASS to the Faculty Meeting tomorrow, January 20, if they wish it." SASS has already received an invitation to send a delegation to that meeting.

TODAY'S AGENDA

Community discussion continues today in sessions planned by a coordinating committee of yesterday's proposal-makers, faculty members, and interested students. Working until late hours, the committee produced a schedule beginning with a plenary meeting in Clothier at 9:30 a.m. The business at hand will be the formulation of the day's agenda with the hope that the discussion will be brief, structured, and over by 10 a.m.

Directly following this meeting students will filter to four groups based in the Rathskellar, Commons, Trotter C115, and Dupont for pre-lunch discussion. Depending upon the number of students involved, smaller groups with appointed leaders will attempt to resolve the looming questions of where to go from here with Clack student actions, how to act given the crisis situation, and the relationship between faculty actions and future SASS demands.

Post-lunch discussion groups are to gather at 1:30 in these same four sites and again break into sub-groups. These afternoon meetings will deal with the general implications for the College community of the demands made by the Black students. Group leaders will be urged to record opinions and will meet in the evening to plan the next day's events.

SHANE EXPLAINS ADMINISTRATION POSITION

Joseph B. Shane, Vice President of Swarthmore, stated yesterday that the administration hopes that the present situation can be "settled in a Quakerly, amicable way." Mr. Shane added that he thought that it would not be necessary to call in the police, or any other outside force into the matter, and the administration had no desire to do this.

The following statement was released yesterday by Mr. Shane as the administration's summary of the situation:

For most of this past semester the Admissions Policy Committee at Swarthmore College has worked on a proposal aimed at maintaining and increasing the numbers of black students at Swarthmore, including the inclusion of "risk" students who have other qualities likely to compensate for lack of strong academic preparation. The report concerned itself, too, with the provision of supportive programs for such students, and referred to the College's concern for creating a viable black student community which would be supported by the addition of black counsellors, administrators and faculty members to the College staff.

Before these proposals could be considered by the College community, the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society issued "non-negotiable demands" to the President of the College, also calling for increases in black student admissions and the addition of black faculty members and administrators. In responding, the President pointed out that the College has never and must never be governed by demands or moved by threats, but added that he would be glad to ask the faculty and Board of Managers to consider the SASS "demands" without prejudice along with the admissions Policy Committee Report, since their concerns agreed in many points.

At the regular Faculty meeting held on January 7, the faculty agreed in many points on (1) seeking substantial increase in the number of black students at Swarthmore (the College at present has a total enrollment of 1024 students, of which 47 are black students); (2) on favoring immediate interim steps to increase the number of black students in next year's entering class, including the admission of "risk" students; and (3) on recognizing the need for a more viable life for a more viable life for black students at Swarthmore (including the appointment of black administrators and counsellors).

The faculty is meeting frequently at present to consider both the report of the Admissions Policy Committee and the "demands" of the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society. Other current business of the Faculty includes the consideration of a joint Student Faculty committee recommending the development of a Black Studies Program at Swarthmore.

Also released to the press yesterday, but not the College community, was a letter from President Smith to Dean Hargadon dated January 2 in which he stated his "dismay at the inappropriateness and lack of justification in SASS's remarks that concerned you and your work..." Smith also regarded Hargadon's work as "one of the great strengths of this college," and cited his contribution towards increasing the number of Negro students "outstanding."

RADICAL ACTION CONTEMPLATED

Subsequent to the walkout of a large number of students from the Clothier meeting (night), a group of students assembled in the SC room in Tarbles to discuss more radical forms of action than, apparently, the students in the Clothier plenary session were willing to consider. Numbering about one hundred students, the group agreed almost unanimously to support not only the SASS demands as of January 9, but also the SASS actions in support of these demands (including the Admissions Office takeover). Although many courses of action were discussed, the group could come to no definite conclusions as to the specific objectives and tactics in the crisis.

Later in a long evening, fifteen of the leaders of the discussion in the SC room moved to the Rathskellar to continue discussion of the issues raised upstairs. Again, no courses of action were determined, but the group will continue in their attempt to define a radical position today and tomorrow.

At the early meeting, one student felt the group should present demands "to provide an excuse for direct action." The demands shouldn't be rigid so they "can't be met within the time period."

John Edgar, describing himself as "an unrepresentative jock," felt the group should think more about demands. The proposal for blacks on all committees "means a Black man on the athletic committee just because he is Black and a Black man on the committee to schedule computer time."

Barry Wohl, chairing the meeting, tried to keep order as opinions clashed and to structure the discussion. Often six persons wanted to speak on a topic. Wohl had difficulty keeping discussion organized.

Discussion centered on a sit-in to support SASS as Linda Frommer stated, "All we have done is talk. We should do something dramatic tonight" to show our support of SASS.

John Braxton called for "an honest and open breaking of the social rules." "We should go back to the dorms and convince students of our positions," argued Nancy Feinstein. One person stated "I walked in here negative. Now I'm becoming radicalized.... People will change if we are clear about it and clever."

News from SASS was announced by John Benditt. "They just called up from the Admissions Office and like they are real thirsty. So why don't we take up a collection for orange juice." The response was a shower of coins.

The meeting closed with a number of votes. A scattering of people were in favor of a policy meeting this evening (i.e. morning) to discuss proposals and some were for talking in the dorms. The majority was in favor of going to bed.

SASS LETTER REFERRED TO BY MORROW

In a letter to the faculty and administration dated January 9 "a self-respecting black alumnus," John Morrow '66, scored the "bludgeon tactics" of the Swarthmore Afro-American Student Society. The letter, distributed to the students by the administration, challenged the unity of SASS noting a letter from that organization to other Black students on campus.

The SASS letter, dated January 8, emphasized "showing a close Black unity in this operation." It asked that there be no individual conversation with the press, but that inquiries be directed to SASS chairman Clinton Etheridge. The letter further discouraged "speculation with other students, faculty or administration" because this would lead to "greater confusion in the college community."

In justifying these requests SASS maintained that it is "trying to make a gain for Black people, not a power play for notoreity." It cited the recent faculty meeting as an example of the "progress we as a Black students' group have made," and emphasized that "any further progress must also be accomplished through Black unity. SASS is not asking for your participation in this action, only that you not harm the operation inadvertently."