

Wed, March 11

SASS

Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society

Swarthmore College

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081

President Cross:

After considerable deliberation, SASS has come to the unanimous conclusion that Robinson House is the only acceptable location for the Black Cultural Center given the existing structures now present and available, provided:

- 1) The black community at Swarthmore defines who will participate in the activities offered and on which occasions. Let us assure you that we have every intention of making the center available to the entire College on a regular, periodic basis for both structured and unstructured affairs.
- 2) That an activities budget of not less than \$7,000 and not more than \$10,000 per fiscal year to be allocated. This is quite reasonable, as we plan to:
 - a) develop several activities open to the entire College (speakers, performers, exhibits, sensitivity sessions).
 - b) conceive and implement several community development and relations programs.
 - c) purchase books, typewriters, and a sound system for our cultural education area.
 - d) purchase art and other renovative and decorative material that is not considered part of capital outlay.
 - e) maintain a guest room plus one or two other living facilities.

As to capital outlay, it is our position that the following necessary conditions be met:

- 1) conventional basic maintenance service is provided at no cost to the center (e.g. lighting, heating, plumbing, etc.).
- 2) the downstairs wall be removed; the architect consulted for an estimate of the cost for this must be mutually acceptable.
- 3) the following basic furnitures be made available:
 - a) drapes
 - b) rugs
 - c) desks
 - d) lamps
 - e) bookshelves
 - f) beds
 - g) sofas
 - h) tables
 - i) approx. 110 folding chairs
 - j) television equipment
 - k) filing cabinets

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We would like to emphasize that we envision the downstairs floor as a reception room, similar, in terms of expenditures, to the reception rooms presently in Robinson.

It is our belief that a cultural center meeting these minimal conditions would be extensive and commendable proof (certainly worthy of and conducive to world recognition) that Swarthmore College has taken one hell of a step in the direction of progressive, enlightened race relations at this point in time.

However, as this letter is in your hand seven hours after the deadline of Wednesday, March 11, 1970 at 11:00 a.m., we extend the deadline for a positive response to Thursday, March 12, 3:00 p.m. We would like to reiterate that we are preparing, in conjunction with a large part of the student body, to prosecute to the fullest extent to see that these conditions are met immediately.

Sincerely,

SASS