

Mr. Joseph B. Shane

Foulkeways  
Gwynedd, Pennsylvania 19436  
September 26, 1969

Mr. Joseph B. Shane  
Vice President  
Swarthmore College  
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081

Dear Joe:

Many alumni, among whom I am one, are less than enthusiastic about the program (as understood by us) of our Alma Mater in dealing with the Black problem.

Among questions to which we should appreciate definitive answers are the following:

1. What disciplinary action was taken by the College with respect to the students who unlawfully usurped possession of the Admissions Office?

2. What percentage of the Trespassers were receiving specific financial aid from the College?

3. (1) What amount of College funds was expended in 1969 in undertaking to prepare (a) Negroes for admission to the College? (b) Whites?

(2) Of such beneficiaries, how many were Negroes? Whites?

4. What amount of College funds was expended in undertaking to recruit (a) Negroes to apply for admission to the 1969-70 scholastic year? (b) Whites?

5. (1) What number of freshmen "high risk" (a) Blacks were admitted to the College for the year 1969-70? (b) Whites?

(2) What was the total number of freshmen admitted?

6. It is understood that after a year of intensive study by a specially qualified Commission on Educational Policy and thorough study of its report by the College community, including the Board of Managers culminating as a part of the "Critique of a College," there was no recommendation contemplating the employment of a Black Admissions Officer, nor of a Black Counsellor, nor the introduction of Afro-American studies in the curricula.

*Rockefeller*

*style*

*not broken down all in admissions*

*no high risk sufficient preparation*

*550A  
331 came*

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Were these innovations dictated by changes in American society that occurred subsequently to the publication of the Critique or do they indicate a cloistered approach by the Commission unaware of existing racial conditions and consequent need for reappraisal of the College's educational program?

7. Swarthmore College has, for a long period of time, justifiably prided itself on its high selectivity of applicants for admission, even though this resulted in rejection of children of Friends and children of Alumni. Are admission standards now so modified as to favor the admission of Blacks who do not possess qualifications equivalent to those of rejected Whites?

8. Although there was never any precise numerical quota limiting the number of Jews admitted, it was recognized that if the College enrollment comprised an undue number of Jews they themselves would look with disfavor upon the result.

Is there any restriction, of any kind, on the number of Blacks to be admitted?

9. Of the total enrollment, what percentage of  
(a) Whites are receiving financial aid from the College?  
(b) Blacks?

Sincerely,

Raymond K. Denworth

RKD/sms



October 14, 1969

Dear Ray:

It was good to see you last Saturday and now I am finally getting around to answering your letter of September 26. I am sure that many alumni, to use your own words, were less than enthusiastic of how Swarthmore College dealt with the black confrontation. There were others who were more enthusiastic as to how the College handled the problem. I am sure that you will never find that you have 100% agreement of anything.

Evidently, from your letter, you are representing a group of alumni because you say "we". I would like to let you know that I will not send an answer to one person unless I know the make-up of the group; therefore, I am writing this letter to you and you only.

#1 No disciplinary action was given but much advice was given.

#2 The Trespassers, as you refer to them, were not receiving financial aid from the College. Many received aid from a special fund awarded to the College by the Rockefeller Foundation for the education of black students. There were some in the group receiving no aid at all.

#3 None

#4 This is not broken down and never will be broken down. Admissions officers travel to many schools and most of these schools will have a mixed enrollment. You should know that the College for the first time has hired a black Assistant Dean of Admissions, who not only is advising black students and working for Admissions with black students but is also interviewing whites. I think you would enjoy meeting him.

#5 It all depends on what you call "high risks". I would say that the College has not lowered its standards for graduation and will not. There were no risk students admitted for the year of 1968-69 and in the year of 1969-70 we are taking some black students who do not present as high college board scores as some whites. This due mainly to their high school training. They have been highly recommended and we think they have the potential to do college work. The second part of #5 - there were 550 students invited to come to Swarthmore; 331 came.

#6 No, the Critique did not deal with the problem of black admissions because they did not consider it a problem when they were making their study.

#7 I would say that the College is highly selective in our applicants for admissions. Some people have said it is harder to get in Swarthmore than it is in Harvard, Yale or Princeton, Radcliffe, Wellesley or Smith. Alumni children and children of Friends are still considered first if they have the qualifications. If they do not have the qualifications and we are convinced that they are not able to do the work, it would be rather foolish to admit them. There are many children of alumni and the Society of Friends who we regard as "high-risk" students. Maybe you and I were in this class - who knows?

#8 As a lawyer you should know that it is against the laws of Pennsylvania to have any quota and as far as I know we have never had any quota for any individual group. I would continue to think that the College should have representatives of all religions and races in its Student Body but common sense would be not to have any undue number of any minority group.

#9 There are between 35 and 40 percent whites who receive financial aid from the College and about 70% blacks.

You should realize that all of these things are being studied rather carefully. Everything adopted last year is being done on an experimental basis. None of us at this time can predict what will happen a year, two years or three years from now. I know you will be interested in reading the release we sent to the newspapers about President Cross' first Collection address. You will find one enclosed.

My best wishes to you and don't forget the door always opens in if you come this way.

Truly yours,

Joseph B. Shane  
Vice President

Mr. Raymond K. Denworth  
Foulkeways  
Gwynedd, Pennsylvania 19436

Enc.