

March 11, 1970

To the Swarthmore College Faculty:

We have received no acceptable proposal from President Cross. After ten months of patient discussion, we have come to doubt the sincerity of the Administration's commitment to fulfilling the needs of its black community. Up to this point, we have operated on the principle of good faith. This policy has proved untenable. The black community can wait no longer. We are dealing with our survival as black people in a white milieu.

Black people are currently debating the feasibility of attending white colleges, i.e. that a white-defined and white-controlled educational experience implicitly denies the legitimacy of the black experience. It therefore cannot provide a meaningful educational experience for black people. In light of the lack of sensitivity displayed by the College regarding our needs as being distinct and legitimate, we have come to believe this analysis holds some credence. At this point, we are not at all sure if we as black people do indeed belong at Swarthmore College.

We emphasize that the black student population has no grievance with the faculty members of this college community. However, we can no longer in good conscience cooperate with the College in any area until the needs requisite to our continued existence here have been met.

This involves fulfillment of academic requirements, for we believe that we would indeed be compromising the principle at stake if we continue to participate in normal College processes, while we are in fact fighting for a meaningful, viable existence here.

As of 11:00 a.m. today, black students refuse to participate



To the Swarthmore College Faculty:  
with business as usual at the College until our needs are met.  
At this time this means we will not attend any classes, take any  
exams or comply with any other College requirements until such  
time as we feel cooperation with the College to be in the overall  
best interests of the black community at Swarthmore.

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(March 1970)?

SASS

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*Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society*

Swarthmore College

Swarthmore, Pennsylvania 19081

Your letter was conspicuous in its absence of specifics with reference to financial allocations, and its ambiguity and power-oriented euphemisms are once again indicative of more attempts to avoid total commitment to some semblance of black power and black liberation.

The deadline is past.

SASS