

Wilmington,
College Monitor

1/26/69

Debussy Tonight

A concert of works by Debussy will be presented tonight at 8:30 in the Ensemble Room of the Fine Arts Center, by pianists Max Carr and Samuel Lingelbach. See page 3.

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Courtney Smith Dead Amid Campus Crisis

By Chris Diver,
Assistant Editor

Dr. Courtney Smith, President of Swarthmore College and American Secretary of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust, died of a heart attack in his office on the morning of January 16. He was 52 years old.

James Read expressed to MONITOR interviewers his feeling of profound loss over Smith's death.

Recalling Smith's honors convocation address last fall, he emphasized the encouragement Swarthmore's late president had given all Quaker colleges to strive for academic excellence.

Smith's address at Wilmington had concerned the place of the small liberal arts college in today's changing society.

He pointed up the irony that the university had once served as the place of unfettered academic pursuit but that recently,



Courtney Smith received an honorary degree from Wilmington in October.

large universities had become too involved in society's business. Consequently, he felt, the small liberal arts college was becoming the forum of imaginative idealism and research.

Developing a body of seekers after truth was in Smith's eyes the highest end of academic excellence.

Read mentioned Swarthmore's recent self-analysis which had produced the widely circulated "Critique of a College," a milestone in the advancement of American higher education.

At the time of Smith's death, Swarthmore was confronting a crisis situation involving a Black militant sit-in demonstration in the college's admissions office.

Smith was deeply concerned about this demonstration. Direct action of this nature, he felt, destroyed the viability of the educational process. Conference sessions were being planned to attempt a resolution of the crisis when the President died.

To express their regret, the demonstrating black students left the admissions office several hours after Smith's death had been announced. They called a moratorium on discussions, but said they had not given up their demands.

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