

1-18-69

To the President's Office:

As an alumna living in Utah,  
I heard the story of the recent "riots"  
as another college uprising a la  
Berkeley, Columbia University, etc.  
I would appreciate, as I would  
assume other alumni would,  
having a report sent out concerning  
the troubles. Perhaps one report  
through the eyes of one of the  
protesters, one through a campus  
conservative, and, if possible, the  
view of one of the administrators,  
though I know this is difficult:  
it ~~is~~ seems these days that any

administration personnel are purely --  
"Establishment," therefore invalid.

My own view is that  
Swarthmore has more ~~democratic~~ democratic  
methods of getting things done than  
do many other colleges, even though,  
by its very nature it cannot be  
a completely democratic society.  
Any student who cannot use these  
methods, is missing a great  
opportunity to try out methods which  
will be useful after college.

My sympathy to the President's  
family. More than any man I know  
of, Courtney Smith had my absolute  
respect.

Sincerely,  
Penelope Adelman '66

January 28, 1969

Dear Penelope Adelman:

Your letter of January 18 has been referred to me. I assure you that there have been no riots at Swarthmore and no physical force at all. A group of students from the Swarthmore Afro-American Students' Society did take over the Admissions Office and made some demands on the administration, faculty and Board of Managers.

We have said that the College never accepts demands but would accept their proposals if they were put in this way. I might say that a Committee of the Faculty had been making a study of black admissions and black policies at the College for almost a semester and issued their report before the demands were made.

The Faculty met day and night for four days and most of us in the administration had very few hours of sleep. The students withdrew from the Admissions Office after President Smith's sudden death which came from a heart attack.

May I thank you for your letter and I assure you that Swarthmore College does have a more democratic way of getting things done than almost any other college. You will be receiving a rather complete report very soon and I am sure that the Alumni Magazine will carry the story in more detail.

Swarthmore College will need the understanding and help of alumni like you in the days ahead.

With all good wishes, I am

Truly yours,

Joseph B. Shane  
Vice President

Miss Penelope Adelman  
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