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The Evening Bulletin

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Episcopalian Warns Whites At Swarthmore

Settle Race Issue Or Face Violence, Fr. Woodruff Says

By FRANCIS X. GEARY

Of The Bulletin Staff

The Rev. James E. Woodruff told about 1,100 students and faculty members at Swarthmore College last night that unless the race problem is settled in this country, "the black man will cut your heads off."

Father Woodruff, a Negro active in black militant causes, is an urban missionary for the Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia.

Last Friday, the Diocesan Council of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania publicly endorsed the work of Father Woodruff, 32, and that of the Rev. David M. Gracie, 35, another missionary.

Poker Game

Father Woodruff, speaking last night at a meeting held in conjunction with the sit-in of about 40 Negro students in Swarthmore College's admissions office, likened race relations in the U. S. to an old-time Western poker game.

"The cheater is the white man and the man being cheated is the Negro," Father Woodruff said, then added:

"In the old Western movies, the cheater, when caught, had two alternatives: Either redistribute the chips quickly when discovered, or you know the outcome."

Father Woodruff, who received a standing ovation at the end of his talk, said America was founded as a white racist country.

Portrayal of Hannibal

He contended that white students are ignorant of Negro history. He noted that Hannibal, whom he described as a "brilliant African general," was depicted in the movies by a white man, Victor Mature.

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At the meeting, Don Mizell, a spokesman for the Swarthmore Afro-American Student Society, which is conducting the sit-in, presented a new series of demands to the college administration.

Yesterday, Dr. Courtney Smith, president of the college, said he strongly supported the action of the college faculty regarding SASS's earlier demands.

Stepped-Up Demands

Last night, however, Mizell issued stepped-up demands, including:

- A Negro dean of students to be "functioning" by March 1.

- A Negro assistant dean of admissions who shall take office by Sept. 1.

- That the two new administrators be hired by presidential appointment and that a list of prospective candidates be compiled by SASS "and any outside organization it deems necessary." Final approval of the new administrators "shall be at the discretion of SASS."

- That 35 Negro students be admitted in each of the next three years and that the college have 150 Negro students in the class of 1975. (Swarthmore now has 47 Negro students among 1,024).

- Formation of an ad hoc committee to study the Negro problem at the college. It is to be composed of four Negro students, one white student, three faculty members, one of them Negro, and two admissions officers, one of them Negro.