

59 Winthrop Street  
Roxbury, Mass. 02119  
17 March 1969

Dean Gilmore Stott  
Swarthmore College  
Swarthmore, Pa. 19081

Dear Dean Stott:

Tonight I attended the meeting of the Swarthmore alumni of the Greater Boston area in which we addressed a large number of questions to a panel of five from the present Swarthmore College community. Except for the very weak role that the history professor played, I thought that the panel did an excellent job of fielding the questions and talking about the whole S.A.S.S. confrontation at Swarthmore this last winter.

I think it is quite obvious, at least from my vantage point, that Swarthmore has played a very passive role in the whole matter of recruiting black students. First of all it wasn't until 1964 that the Swarthmore community really made an effort to get into large scale recruiting at all. Number two, it apparently was the presence of Jack Hoy that enabled Swarthmore to get the grant, and get as many as nineteen black students in one year. Number three, Jack Hoy obviously was not replaced with a man with similar energies for recruiting black students. Number four, the Swarthmore community apparently was not interested in learning enough about how to make black students welcome to avoid a confrontation like the one that occurred this last winter. Number five, Swarthmore has never appealed to me (even though there are a number of people in the Swarthmore community who could not help but know that I would be very interested in black students being admitted to Swarthmore) for a contribution of either money or time for the recruitment of blacks. In addition, I have been living in Roxbury, a notorious predominantly black neighborhood in Boston, and no one seems to have noticed that I



was here in spite of the fact that I am listed in the 1967 Swarthmore College directory of addresses.

I would like to make a couple of suggestions of ways in which Swarthmore could utilize its present resources (i.e. its liberal minded alumni) to recruit black students for Swarthmore. Before making these suggestions I would like to emphasize that, before I would be interested in carrying through with either of them, I would want to have a statement (or a brochure or a pamphlet) which was written and signed by a group composed: (1) of black students from Swarthmore who are members of S.A.S.S., (2) of black students from Swarthmore who are not, and (3) of white members of the Swarthmore college community. This pamphlet (or whatever) should explain just what the advantages and disadvantages are of a black student coming to Swarthmore, what kind of a student will fit in well there (both academically and socially), and just what kind of problems he would be prepared to deal with when he arrives.

Given that such a publication could be put out, I would like to suggest (and would be willing to be a volunteer in the Boston area to carry out) the following two proposals. (1) Alumni of Swarthmore could be contacted by letter and asked to contribute to a scholarship fund for the support of students who otherwise would not be able to come to Swarthmore for reasons of being a member of the "wrong" race or lower socio-economic group or both. I think there are large numbers of alumni from Swarthmore who would answer such an appeal. Just how much money could be raised is an open question but I certainly think that it ought to be explored. (2) I think that there are probably at least one or two Swarthmore graduates living in the major predominantly black areas in the



urban centers of the United States. It seems to me that these people could be contacted and asked if they would be willing to work on a part-time basis for recruiting the kind of students that Swarthmore is looking for from the minority groups (either racial or socio-economic) here in the United States.

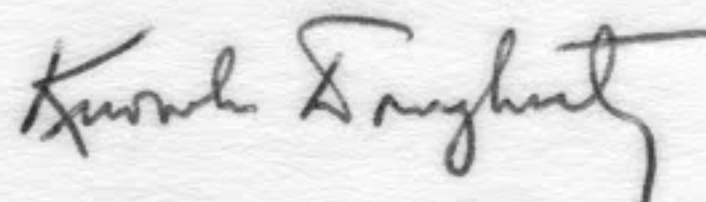
In the discussion that we had with the panel at Harvard this evening, it was indicated that something like \$500,000 would be needed to finance a program (of recruitment and support) for black and poor at Swarthmore. In the case of the poor whites, it may be necessary to give scholarships. In the case of the poor black, I don't believe that this will be necessary to the extent that the half million dollar figure indicated. The latest Department of Labor Statistics indicated that (especially for young blacks who have a good education) the rise in their income in the United States has exceeded that of comparable whites by a very substantial percentage. I know for a fact that my own acquaintances and friends here in the Roxbury community (who personally fall in the category that we just described) have doubled, tripled and quadrupled their income in the last two to four years. Clearly this is an extremely advantageous time to be black, bright and well-educated in the United States. I think that a program could be developed whereby the poor blacks (who qualified for Swarthmore) could be loaned the money necessary for the maintenance of themselves at the college under the provision that they would repay the loan (many years later) perhaps on the basis say paying 5% of their income which exceeds say \$15,000. I believe that such a deal would be very attractive to bright, black, prospective Swarthmore students because they wouldn't really believe that they would ever have to repay it and I think that financial institutions



would be attracted to the plan because it represents an excellent long term risk. '

It is impossible for me to write this letter and not include a paragraph of disgust about the attitude that was expressed by the history professor at the meeting this evening at Longfellow Hall at Harvard. A number of times (from him) we got the feeling that, at Swarthmore, every person has something of the inner light in him but if you are a professor or a member of the administration you have more inner light than if you are a student. I'm thinking particularly of the comment made that one would not want the admissions committee to have students on it because the admissions committee has to review confidential information: and quite obviously the students would not be trustworthy enough to have access to this information. I know that the phrase "black is beautiful" means different things to different people, To me black is beautiful because, for the first time, us timid whites who have felt as though we had no say in what was going on around us are finding that if we only united and identified ourselves we would have a great deal of power to change the system that we have been forced to live in. I certainly hope that the black-white confrontation at Swarthmore will resolve in the examination of the Quaker philosophy and how that relates to the amount of voice given to Swarthmore students. Quite frankly the three students on the panel this evening were at least as impressive as the three nonstudents: i.e. one member of the administration and two members of the faculty. I believe that Swarthmore would be in good hands if one of those hands was attached to the student body.

Sincerely yours,



Knowles Dougherty '56

Copies to: Clinton Etheridge, Robert Savage, Aundrea White



SWARTHMORE COLLEGE  
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Gil -

From where I sit  
your response to this  
young man is really  
so indirect as to leave  
his disparaging comments  
unanswered. I for one  
intend to respond to  
them in a straightforward  
& record-setting straight  
way.

Frederick



OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT  
SWARTHMORE COLLEGE

Mr. I am not sure you  
letter is not too nice  
to knowles how many  
are our own students  
about going for such  
scholarships - for as our  
community chest

J.B.



SWARTHMORE COLLEGE  
SWARTHMORE, PENNSYLVANIA  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

~~FBS~~

FAH

Knowles Dougherty's letter

to me is for your  
information. (Bob Cross's  
favorite cousin, no less!)

I'll send my draft  
letter if you think it  
strikes a proper note.

Ed



16 May 1969

Dear Knowles:

Sorry for the long delay in answering your letter. It's been a busy spring, and indeed I think much of what I have been about is related to the objectives you support so keenly.

I think Fred Hargadon should know of your keenness of interest in black recruiting, so have shown him your letter. If you would encourage prospective applicants to write in, perhaps mentioning your name, that would I think be very helpful. Incidentally the news about black admissions is good this spring, with 31 signed up as Swarthmore freshmen for next year, which speaks well for this year's recruitment. Dean Hargadon asked our Ad Hoc Black Admissions Committee (on which there are several SASS members) to draft a brochure on black admissions for recruitment purposes, and we hope an item of this nature will be available next fall.

Joseph Shane is the right person to know about your interest in alumni giving for a black scholarship fund, so I am showing him your letter also. An appeal such as you mention sounds like an interesting possibility; and I think we can guarantee we won't turn down gifts for this purpose!

My own reading is that progress toward a more genuinely black and white Swarthmore is making considerable strides. There is active study of matters such as recruitment, post enrollment support, black studies. We have just made two very good appointments of black administrators. My own hunch is you would feel some pride in all that is taking place. Relevant too is the full scale study of College governance, which has already begun and will continue through summer and into fall. And you've even got the new president in the family -- he came out for the first time and was great -- so cheer up!



Come to see the Stotts when you are here.

Sincerely,

Gilmore Stott  
Administrative Assistant  
to the President

Mr. Knowles Dougherty  
59 Winthrop Street  
Roxbury, Massachusetts 02119

P. S. I should add that we do have students on the admissions committee, and sought them long before the crisis, though interestingly enough the Student Council caused delay, since the president needed word from them on how the members would be chosen. But such students, by long standing and essential professional practice, cannot see folders because of their inclusion of confidential references. The schools are rightly insistent that references are restricted to faculty and staff use.

I would add too that your negative comment about certain participants is frankly, to my mind, unjustified and sounds -- as it comes through to me -- closed-minded. So I would be less than frank if failure to mention this implied that I agreed with you on this. As I see it, the reform spirit should stay open-minded too, and should be interested in the reason or good that may turn up in points of view with which one does not agree.