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[Memo to Sarah Lawrence Community from President Alice Ilchman, et al, March 1, 1989]

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SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

March 1, 1989

Dear Members of the Sarah Lawrence Community,

On Tuesday night, February 28th, there was an incident on campus that needs to be addressed by the entire community. It started with a mural painted by a student in the hallway of Garrison D. A number of students were offended by what they saw as racial caricatures in that mural. A confrontation took place. At the end the artist painted over the mural and fortunately the incident ended without physical injury to anyone. However many students remain upset and the tensions have not been resolved.

We clearly need to address both this incident and the underlying tensions it expressed. During the week of March 6th we will interview both the students involved and any other students who would like to contribute to the discussion. The panel of administrators conducting the interviews will include Bob Cameron, Tamara Floyd, Barbara Kaplan, and Marilyn Katz. We will be contacting students directly to set up appointments. Other students who wish to talk with us should contact the Office of Student Affairs (extension 2575) to set up an appointment.

At this point we must reaffirm some basic principles that this College stands for:

- Sarah Lawrence is and must be a community that welcomes and nurtures people of all races. The College rejects all forms of racism.
- Violence and threats of violence are unacceptable under any circumstances.

Any violation of these principles is a violation of the community and cannot be tolerated.

We will inform the community of the results of the interviews and of our recommendations as soon as our discussions are completed.

Bob Cameron
Assoc. Dean of Student Affairs

Tamara Floyd
Asst. Dean of Residential Life

Barbara Kaplan
Dean of the College

Marilyn Katz
Dean of Studies

Alice Ilchman
President