

3-4-1989

## [Black Alumnae Association Letter to Alice Ilchman, March 4, 1989]

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SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE  
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

MAR 7 1989

STAFF  
FYI

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March 4, 1989

Dear President Hichman,

The Black Alumnae/i Association of Sarah Lawrence College, having been informed of the recent race-related incident on campus, joins Harambe and the Coalition of Students of Color in expressing its disapproval of the administration's response to this incident, as well as shares student concern that such an incident could occur at Sarah Lawrence. Additionally, we are fully supportive of Harambe's demands that Sarah Lawrence institute basic changes in its academic and social environment for the betterment of the lives of present and future students of color at the College.

We are committed to the College's goal of ethnic diversity at Sarah Lawrence; we feel that the lives of many people of color could be enhanced by the Sarah Lawrence experience. However, we agree that the elements of a successful educational experience for people of color are more encompassing than a diversified campus community; minority students on majority campuses require supportive services designed to meet their needs, validation of the minority experience through curricular offerings and campus events, and inclusion of minority values in the policies and practices of the institution. It is not enough to encourage people of color to validate their own experiences -- the College must share in the validation of people of color. To simply increase the number of minority people on campus is merely landscaping.

The Black Alumnae/i Association would like to assist the College in meeting these goals; we offer to the College our resources as alumnae/i and as educators, artists, social service professionals, and representatives of a variety of other professions.

With our deepest concern,

The Black Alumnae/i Association

Steering Committee:



\*Not present at last meeting