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## [A Statement from the Students who have Occupied Westlands, March 14, 1969]

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## A Statement from the Students who have Occupied Westlands

March 14, 1969 , 10:30 P.M.

Occupying Westlands no longer serves our purposes. Through our action we had hoped to create a college which could respond to society. We acted in direct response to an official declaration that the future of this college would reflect only its past. We asked The Board of Trustees to revoke the tuition increase as a commitment to change the course of this college and to change the order of priorities within this society. We were answered with silence. We asked the administration to commit itself actively to the idea of a diverse student body. We were answered with vague promises. We took our demands to the faculty and students, and they responded with a new committee called a task force.

Our power as students was not the question. We came together to assert the power of people who refuse to accept the limitations of institutional hierarchy. We have come to realize that we are members of a community at once smaller than Sarah Lawrence and far larger than any college. We are leaving Westlands to continue a fight that we have only begun. The most important move to restructure our education has already happened: we have torn down the walls that surrounded us and which protected our . . . quiet, liberal community.