

5-26-1969

[Letter to Students, Administration, and Faculty from Student, May 26, 1969]

[Redacted]

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Recommended Citation

[Redacted], "[Letter to Students, Administration, and Faculty from Student, May 26, 1969]" (1969). *Complete protest and activism collection online*, Sarah Lawrence College Archives. 99.
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To: The Students, Administration, and Faculty *Original housed in restricted folder 7*

From: [REDACTED]

RECEIVED

MAY 26 1969

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

Initiating discussion is not my forte and anger/frustration render me totally dumb, but I cannot leave SLC without having made a statement.

For the many of you who don't know me, I am a self-supporting, Black, day, graduating Graduate student in Performing Arts whose attendance at SLC for the past two years has been made possible through a two-year assistantship (the "Music for Children" program), scholarship aid from SLC, an NDEA loan through SLC, and playing for and teaching dance classes in NYC and Westchester.

I have been opposed in principle to every sit-in on this campus; I am similarly opposed to most of the campus sit-ins that have gone on elsewhere.

When, in the early 60s, the black students of black A&T College in North Carolina sat-in at Woolworth's, they had just cause. Those students were afraid; there is no "fear" any more -- merely blatant defiance: the method of protest has been run into the ground!

I find less fault and can better empathize with the rioters of Harlem, Detroit, Newark, and Watts than with earnest college sit-ins and uprisings.

I am a pacifist. For one reason or another I maintain the belief that Man is a rational animal, particularly those on college campuses. If this last is also nullified, I am a fool.

I believe in revolutions as a final means to an end but the SDS is wrong! Revolutionists let them be, but they are LIARS if they need their own campuses on which to revolt.

Students are not "created" on campuses -- certainly not on private school campuses.

People are -- or are not -- students.

If one has the guts to be both revolutionist and student, it's a hell of a lot more convincing, albeit more personally taxing, to be a lone dissident than one of a marauding pack and this last is what appears to be happening.

I am aware of frightening tactics being employed recklessly and the threat to my freedom disallows detachment. I am being intimidated.

This terrifies me -- that emotionalism is superceding reason, simple logic has been thrown to the wind, malicious, selfish show of power is being calculatedly utilized to combat unreasonably the alleged injustice that has caused the upheaval.

I see the cycle perpetuating itself with horrifying consequences upon the graduation of each such similarly dedicated student.

Alas, "Dr Strangelovo" -- though this may well be the end for which I am meant, I shall not have left this campus a silent partner to the madness.