

800 march to Perry—

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friends who he said "are partially to blame."

Greg Witcher, one of the six co-ordinators of the BSU, read a statement on behalf of the organization. Witcher charged that racism exists at Williams, asking "when will we realize that it (racism) also exists at Williams and in our attitudes? How many of us ever consider that beneath our shallow liberal attitudes there still do exist significant racial prejudices?"

Witcher charged that "the school we attend is institutionally racist" in its lack of tenured black faculty, its response to the divestiture issue, and its curricular bias. Witcher also implied that it was Williams students who burned the cross, saying, "is it really all that surprising that a student or group of students from this college would burn a cross on campus to show their hatred of blacks?"

In an interview Monday afternoon, President Chandler denied Witcher's charge that the College is racist. "The policies of Williams College as established by the trustees and the administration and faculty are strongly supportive of values that are totally antithetical to racism," said Chandler. "Williams is not institutionally racist."

After the statements, approximately 800 people formed a line for a march to Perry House to view the site of the cross-burning. At the site Muhammad Kenyatta, a special student, minister, and former civil rights leader, gave a short prayer. "The burning of a cross is the burning of our hopes . . . for justice, equality, liberty, brotherhood and sisterhood," Kenyatta said. "Each of us is a participant in what happened here. We must re-dedicate ourselves, re-commit ourselves, give ourselves to the cause that all people might be one, be free, live in peace and justice, and in love," he concluded.

At the close of the rally, students said they were generally pleased with the way in which the total incident was handled. "The rally was the right thing to do," said McWhorter. "Although the

administration initially acted very badly, I think we can now have faith in them, after the rally. They acted quickly and thoughtfully. I just can't believe there were so many people here who were crying, so many people who were moved."

There was some dissatisfaction, however, and a general wait-and-see attitude on the part of some blacks. "We had assumed that communication lines were open between the BSU and the administration," said Witcher. "We should have known sooner."

Burning cross seen by partiers

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noticed the disturbance when the two men lit the torch and began waving it about. Gar-Wood House Vice-President George Baumgarten '82 said "I looked out and saw a guy dancing around with a torch. In a few seconds the cross and ground were burning with flames about three feet high."

Officer David Walsh saw the blaze through a window in Perry House where he was acting as security monitor for the Perry Homecoming party. "I looked out to see the lawn on fire," said Walsh. "I could see the cross burning and a person in a white sheet out there. I came out, kicked the cross apart and put the fire out. The people who did it escaped around the house to the south of me. I finally had to use water to put out the pieces of the cross; whoever did this used an awful lot of gasoline."

The two men poured a gallon of gasoline on the cross and lawn from a plastic jug found near the site of the burning. The gasoline used was enough to set the grass below and around the cross burning for several minutes.

It is difficult to determine whether the two men who burned the cross were Williams students or outsiders. The jug which contained the gasoline was labeled Fairdale Farms Orange Drink, a product produced in Bennington, Vermont, but which is available locally. Some of the wood used to build the cross may have come from a pile of wood behind the Adams Memorial



Last Friday, the Choral Society gave a performance of Mozart's "Coronation" Mass, a recently discovered Kyrie by Vivaldi for double choir, and Vaughan Williams Flos Campi. (Buckner)

Hall and Oates to play Thurs.

The concert by Daryl Hall and John Oates in Chapin Hall this Thursday evening may surprise and please those in attendance by offering much more than the hits we're all used to. Since 1969 when they began as Philly Rhythm and Blues players, Hall and Oates have been folk, rock, soul, and new wave artists at one time or another, cutting across many sacred musical boundaries to the delight of critics and fans alike.

Originally dubbed the "kings of blue-eyed soul" by Rolling Stone for their mid-seventies classics "She's Gone," "Sara Smile," and "Rich Girl," the pair has lately been active in a number of fields with an impressive array of supporting talent. In the last five years they have explored hard-charging electric rock with the help of Cheap Trick guitarist Rick Nielson and Todd Rundgren, pop-rock influenced by cohort George Harrison, and "modern music" a la Robert Fripp.

No doubt the older songs mentioned above will evoke the strongest reaction from the crowd on Thursday. Word is that they still enjoy playing them, and that their approach to live performance is as provocative as ever. Williams is the first college date for the band this year, and they are looking forward to the change of pace, not to mention the near-legendary Williams concertgoers' enthusiasm.

Tickets, five dollars with Williams ID, are available in Baxter, Mission Park, Greylock, and Driscoll during meals, at both of Williamstown's record stores and at Chapin on the night of the show.

Theatre, according to one source who examined the pieces of the cross, but an exact determination was not possible.

Although there was seemingly no explanation for the choice of Perry House for the site of the burning, the cross may have been targeted for a party being held by the Williams Black Student Union at the Weston Language Center next door.

Dean of the College Cris Roosenraad and College President John Chandler held a meeting with a majority of the College's approximately 120 black students Sunday at 4:00 p.m. to explain the situation and to attempt to allay student fears that this act was part of the growing nationwide violence toward blacks. The meeting was called only after Sunday afternoon calls to Roosenraad from The Record and College Council President Darrell McWhorter, asking him for details of the incident. This fact bothered many black students.

"Why weren't we told sooner," asked one black student. "The College knew by 10:30 that a cross was burned near the BSU and yet they told no one at the party. They were black women going to and leaving the party alone all night. It shows grave irresponsibility on the part of the College."

Black students were also displeased with the results of their Sunday meeting with Roosenraad and Chandler. "The report of the incident was inadequate," said Greg Witcher,

a co-ordinator of the BSU. "The meeting was supposed to allay student fears; I'm not sure it accomplished that."

Dean Roosenraad said in an interview Monday that he first learned of the incident at 10:35 Saturday night when he was called by Security Officer Wilson with a report on the burning. Roosenraad said that a College security officer was dispatched to search the area behind Perry to look for the people responsible and to investigate the incident. Roosenraad said there is a College policy to inform students when they are in danger, but stressed that it is not an automatic policy. He said he felt that he did not have enough information to justify warning students attending the party at Weston, nor to justify dispatching additional security officers.

"To have taken any action without knowing all the facts would have been highly irresponsible," said Roosenraad. Roosenraad added that "given the circumstances, Officer Walsh acted correctly in my opinion when faced with a great crowd of people and an extraordinary act."

CONSIDERING AN MBA? An admission's representative from VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY will be on campus Thursday, November 6 to meet with students interested in an MBA. Please contact the Office of Career Counseling for more details and to sign up for a student information session.



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The art of choosing a President

Few parents seem these days to want their child to grow up to be President of the United States.

There are even fewer people who want themselves to be the Chief Executive from sea to shining sea, and certainly none currently interested who are qualified for the job.

Mr. Reagan's foreign policy of virility, Mr. Carter's irrational stubbornness in being indignantly incorrect, and Mr. Anderson's frighteningly "realistic" outlook give us a choice of three basic strategies for solving our problems: we can nuke 'em, kook 'em, or spook 'em.

Some choice.

It can't be some scarcity of people better able—as opposed to more willing—to run the country: almost any graduate of any one of the Eastern elite institutions of higher learning would make most of us a lot more comfortable.

So why is it, then, that JFK was the last President to get his degree from an elite Eastern college? Why are our Presidents so unmannerly that they display their abdominal scars to reporters or so uncoordinated that they cannot enter a

SETEARICAL NOTES

helicopter without cracking their crania, however thick these might be?

I'll tell you why: there is no standardized aptitude test for the Presidency of the United States.

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innate confidence so ebulliently bolstered by our Latin-inscribed diplomas and our Brooks Brothers-inscribed suits overcomes any doubts we have about whether we shall succeed, but not our concerns about how to succeed.

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