

PLEASE SHARE WITH BOXMATE

September 28, 1998

To the Campus Community:

This weekend a most vicious hate crime was committed against a new member of our community and therefore against all of us. The following anonymous message was tacked to a student's door on Sunday afternoon:

WE HAVE A NO NIGGER POLICY AT K-COLLEGE. IT IS DESIGNED TO INSURE THE FAILURE OF ALL NON WHITE PEOPLE HERE. The policy is meant to be a non-violent one, but whatever measures have to be taken, we will take. Once you people realize that we can not live together, the country will be a better fucking place. All of this peaceful talk around campus is sickening. YOUR POEM SUCKED. WE ALMOST HURLED WHEN WE HEARD IT. YOU FUCKING SUCK. WE WOULD ADVISE YOU TO KEEP THIS TO YOURSELF. THIS WILL BE YOUR ONLY WARNING.

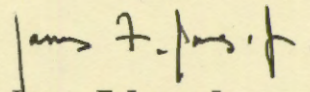
[signed] OPERATION ELIMINATE

At Kalamazoo College, we value learning and the open discussion of differences. This particular action is a violation of everything for which we stand. It is an act of cowardice intended to intimidate. As a community dedicated to learning and its values of curiosity, tolerance and justice, we cannot and will not abide such behavior. It diminishes all of us.

The following morning a fire of undetermined origin broke out in the room of this same student. Both the fire and the anonymous note are under investigation by the Fire Marshall and the police of the Kalamazoo Department of Public Safety. We are taking all steps necessary to determine the cause of the fire and the source of the anonymous message.

The challenge now for each of us is to respond—to step forward with information, to offer support to one another, and to work together to change the very ethos of our college. It is our individual and collective responsibility to create and maintain an environment that validates the educational benefits of a diverse community in a safe learning environment. We are all wounded whenever any one of us is hurt and threatened. We must become vigilant, so that this cannot happen again to any one among us, for any reason.

Yours sincerely,



James F. Jones, Jr.
President