Suma Clark to Bart Gordon (Time 16:04): Bart, there was a particularly disturbing incident in December of 1970.

Bart Gordon: I guess it was--it seemed like it was 10:30-11’o clock. I don’t know. I went outside--I had to empty a garbage can. And just as fate would have it, just as I was there, I saw a cross that lit up and it was, in essence, ironically, in the parking lot of Walker Library. And, so, you know I immediately went over, I was gonna kick it down. And I remember it very distinctly, as I got closer I thought, “This is the real thing.” These were railroad ties wrapped in burlap soaked in gas or kerosene or something. And, then, it must have been of lit by some kind of remote control because nobody was around. And I saw it from the first. So I started kicking it down. Then I got a little worried, it somebody with a sniper--you know, this is real stuff. Anyway, we got it down. And soon after, Gerald and Al came out, and a trickle of other students. Gerald was trying to calm everybody down. And there was a young woman, named Angela Winfrey, and Angela said “Hell no! We’re not going back.” She sent somebody to each of the dorms to bring all the black students to this location. So there was a discussion on what to do. And the decision was that we’re gonna go see Dr. Scarlett, but by this time, this was well after midnight. And it just happened that my dorm was right on the way so I was with everybody and, uh, stopped in the dorm to call Dr. Scarlett--I don’t know how I had your number--but I had the number. Only time I think I ever called it. And I said, “Dr. Scarlett, we’re on our way.” And, to his credit, he was there on the porch and there was a long discussion. It was hurt, not anger.

Caroline Scarlett: ...I must’ve gone to bed about 2:30 and he was still there [Dr. Scarlett on the porch talking to students]. I think he decided that he would do a radio broadcast and hit all the classrooms at the same time...But he did say that if students had a serious grievance or anything that had troubled them, he did not want to hear it secondhand. He wanted them to come to the office and discuss it and see what they could do about it.

Phyllis Hickerson Washington (Time 19:26): I was in my dorm, Monohan Hall. And the young lady ran in the dorm and said “Come on, come on, come on! We’ve gotta go! There’s been a cross burning on campus. We’re marching to the president’s house.” We dropped everything, and ran out the door. Now, I read in the article about 60 students gathered on the President’s lawn. I saw 500 students. (Laughter) I saw many, many because I remember we looked around
and we thought, “We didn't' know we had this many students on campus.” But the word got out very quickly. I remember Al and Gerald both went inside. When they came back out and--we were angry. We were angry about the cross burning. We just had the cheerleader deal, and now we have the cross burning. Dick Gregory had spoken that night. So we thought that’s why there was a cross burning because Dick Gregory had spoken on campus. But after they finished talking and they came out, we heard a voice say “Well, we gave you two black cheerleaders.” And that really upset the group. And I do remember the radio [broadcast], it seems like I was in biology class when it came on. We did see some changes, like, for instance, the notebooks stopped having the Nathan Bedford Forrest. That was removed from the notebooks and that kind of thing. I know students also wanted Nathan moved from Forrest Hall. We wanted Nathan moved from everything.