Dear Editor,

Look closely at the word “Obi.” Does it look like Swahili to you? In the Sept. 27 issue of the Collegiate Challenge, the Minister of Information for the newly formed Obi Society stated that Obi means “soul” in the Swahili language.

Well, it just didn’t look like Swahili to me, so a little investigation was in order. I first contacted the University of Washington, Anthropology Department. Professor Eastman, an expert in the Swahili language said, “There is no such word in the Swahili language. The closest to it is “Raha” which means the core of humanness, rest and comfort, but the general interpretation means soul; wait, there is a better one, ‘Roho,’ which means spirit and vital principle, with again the general interpretation as soul.”

Still not satisfied, I called the University of Puget Sound and talked with Professor N’engo who speaks Swahili and has a working knowledge of many other African languages. “I am not aware of any such word as Obi in the Swahili language meaning soul, maybe in Youta, Ibo, or Hausa, but not Swahili.”

I submit that Obi does not mean soul at all but are the initials of some unknown slogan. Furthermore, I think there should be an investigation by the Obi Society to prove the meaning of “Obi.” —Signed, “Sarge”