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Loras allows 16 blacks to remain

By COLIN MacDONALD
T-H Staff Writer

Sixteen black students, suspended Saturday by Loras College for the takeover of an alumni building a week ago, were told Sunday that they can remain as students after all.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Justin A. Driscoll, Loras president, formally lifted the eight-month suspensions and instead imposed probation ending in July, 1970.

The announcement came after seven hours of negotiations Saturday night and Sunday morning among civil rights officials, clergymen and representatives of Dubuque's other two colleges.

During the negotiations the 16 blacks remained in the third floor of Keane Hall, despite an order that they leave by 8 p.m. Saturday. During the night, other blacks—from the University of Dubuque, from Clarke College and from other colleges—joined them.

Sunday, slightly flushed and appearing alone before press and student representatives in the Keane Hall lounge about 1:45 p.m., Msgr. Driscoll said: "This decision (probation rather than suspension) was made at 4 a.m. (Sunday) with the strong insistence of the representatives of Clarke College and the University of Dubuque who were present at that time."

There was no applause, no questions, and the president left in virtual silence.

Upstairs on the third floor, where an estimated 100 blacks had spent the night with the suspended 16, the atmosphere was subdued but relieved.

Instrumental in the altered decision was the Rev. George

Driscoll substitutes probation for suspension



MSGR. DRISCOLL
4 a.m. decision

Clements, black pastor of Chicago's Holy Angels parish, and a speaker on the campus last year. He arrived about 9 p.m. Saturday, followed by Alvin Hayes Jr., executive director of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union, and the Rev. Edwin Cabey, black student counsellor and priest at Epworth's Divine Word Seminary. They met immediately in closed session with Msgr. Driscoll in his second floor apartment in Keane Hall.

Also present were Dr. Robert J. Giroux, newly installed president of Clarke College, and Dr. J. Bennett Tate, dean of students at the University of Dubuque. Msgr. Driscoll's state-

ment of capitulation referred specifically to pressures from the UD and Clarke.

Thomas Jackson, black student spokesman and Chicago senior, said it was not until the arrival of Father Clements that the group became optimistic that a decision in their favor might come.

Support from other blacks helped sway the issue, he said. "The brothers felt the concern they came from all over some of them I didn't know." Identified were students from Chicago, Iowa City, Platteville, Wis., Cedar Rapids and Waterloo, Ia.

Told Sunday in the wake of the decision that four more carloads were coming from Coe College at Cedar Rapids, Jackson said: "Hey... it's already over. Man! We better make a phone call."

He said after the president's announcement: "We are trying to provide for our welfare as well as the total community. This shows what a body of students can do when they work together in a positive way."

Father Clements, before returning to Chicago, said, "Never before has an institution attempted to expell all its black students. It is to the credit of the black students here that they were able to persuade the administration to rescind its obvious act of injustice."

He asked that the university "go out and correct the fact of 22 black students in an enrollment of 1,500. Let's have 250 to 300 enrolled at the college as of the next semester. The situation



Call from mother

cries to heaven to correct the imbalance.

He thanked everyone "especially Clarke College and the University of Dubuque... and we had a lot of fun last night."

Father Cabey asked the group to work together "to make a program for Loras and all of Dubuque."

The first proposal to the blacks early Sunday morning was returned to Msgr. Driscoll for clarification that there would be no loss of scholarship benefits, or curtailment of sports or campus activities. Jackson said Msgr. Driscoll agreed to work with the committee on the temporary site for the black cul-

tural center (part of Smythe Hall) offered by the administration after the Henion Manor takeover... as well as looking for a permanent site.

Sources close to the University of Dubuque and Clarke College said the reversal "was the only reasonably compassionate decision in the light of the circumstances."

The three colleges have been in close cooperation, allowing students to enroll in courses at the other institutions as an answer to the competition offered by major universities with broader curriculums and greater financial resources. The plan has been described as "the best hope for survival of the Dubuque institutions."

The split between the three, caused by the suspensions, could have placed the schools' cooperative programs in jeopardy, it was said.

The legal position of Loras College following the suspensions was never certain. Sources within the college, as well as outsiders, questioned whether the mass dismissals could be supported in court.

The disciplinary committee, which recommended indefinite suspensions with a strong recommendation for clemency, was generally surprised at the severity of suspension. Many students argued that the takeover of Henion Manor, in which no violence occurred, was less serious than a 200-man party raid on Clarke College causing \$400 damage. No disciplinary action was taken on the raid.