

REPLY TO THE "FACT SHEET ON STUDENT ACTION"  
OF LORAS COLLEGE

by  
Msgr. Justin A. Driscoll, President

1. Athletic Department's Hair Policy

It is true that on November 20, 1968, I asked a "Special Committee" to study the Athletic Department's policy on grooming and hair styles. I received that Committee's report, but I did not ignore it.

I weighed it long and carefully. I did not follow it; and I told the Athletic Department and the Loras Community that it is the "considered judgment of this office that the present policy be allowed to stand for the duration of the year."

Two weeks ago, on the other hand, at the time the faculty contracts were sent out, I wrote Mr. John E. Coe and the Loras Coaches to say that the recommendation of the "Special Committee" of last fall would prevail for next year. I quote from that letter.

"I request that the Athletic Department adopt the policy recommended by the Ad Hoc Committee which studied the issue in November of 1968.

That Committee reported:

"It is recommended that a new policy be formulated by the Athletic Department and that

- (a) it be a general statement on personal grooming
- (b) it take into consideration cultural differences regarding style of appearance.

In conclusion we recognize the right of the Athletic Department to have and enforce a general policy on personal grooming and we commend the Athletic Department for their concern and solicitude for the enhancement of the image of Loras College."

2. Parietal Hours

I have stated my position that in conscience I should not yield to this request, beyond the hours already approved for the stated dates of Parents'

Day, Tri-College Weekend, and Prom Weekend. While I am convinced of my stand on this issue, I shall seek advice, consult students, educators, parents, groups, and individuals, in an effort to determine the validity of this position.

3. Freshman Hours, Sign-In, Roomcheck, Cars

The Administrative Council made a recommendation concerning proposed changes on freshmen and sophomore hours on March 3, 1969; but I asked for more time to study this matter. Apparently, from the student point of view the announcement of my decision was delayed too long.

4. Questions on Fiscal Policies

Loras College has just completed a careful analysis of its Business Policies and Procedures. Doctor Charles E. Ford, nationally known consultant on Higher Education, (Fontbonne College, St. Louis) brought to the Loras campus Doctor Kenneth Erfft, the Vice President of Business of Duquesne University, Pittsburgh. He was here for three days, March 5, 6, and 7.

In general, Doctor Erfft was favorable to the Loras fiscal policies; but he is making some significant recommendations which will be presented to the Loras Board of Regents. They will be implemented as soon as practicable.

The Senate has alleged that I am directing unsound fiscal policies. The facts below will tell the picture, at least in part.

Loras College had completed a vigorous building program; and when I became President, Loras had a debt of \$1,000,000.00. Today, that debt stands at \$709,000.00 (it was reduced about 30%); furthermore, \$77,859.00 were added to the Endowment Fund; and \$57,000.00 worth of physical properties were acquired for the campus. Yet, not one cent of this money came from the students. All the money came from friends, alumni, and benefactors. Likewise, I worked hard to bring a Title III Grant of \$200,000.00

for the Tri-College cooperative effort, and \$90,687.00 NDEA Student Loans and \$65,960.00 Economic Opportunity Grants (EOG) were allocated to Loras College for the first time, at a total of \$156,647.00.

In regard to the tuition and fees paid by the Loras students last year, these payments totaled \$1,512,217.00 which represented 59.99% of the total educational expenses (and these are 2 1/2% lower than the previous year of 62.48% paid by the students). The other 40% of the students educational expenses come from the following sources: A 12.64% from donated scholarships; 13.81% from endowment income; 7.35% from special gifts and grants; 6.21% from general sources.

I firmly believe that students who are paying approximately \$1,200.00 for tuition and are receiving \$2,000.00 worth of educational services are the recipients of substantial scholarships here at Loras. One more point. The enrollment of Loras College did decline this past fall about 40 students, but the applications for / admission were about the same as the previous year. We could have filled the dorms if we had chosen to be less selective in our admissions policy.

On the other hand, we added seven teachers with Ph.D. degrees; and we are in the midst of a sound recruitment program of teachers with doctorates for the coming year.

The Hennessy Hall Door. Much criticism has been directed to this entrance-way. I was quoted as saying, that the project cost \$16,000.00. This simply is incorrect. When questioned about the cost, I said it came to approximately ten thousand dollars. This is still no small sum, I realize. But the project involved much more than "a door" as it was referred to. Support walls, flooring, steps and an outdoor-entrance-way were constructed. The

present exterior structure, too, was less expensive than brick or some kind of stone. In response to numerous and frequently reported requests for this entrance, I approved the expenditure to facilitate passage between Hennessy Hall and St. Joseph's Hall of Science, to accommodate the students, and to provide a greater safety dimension to Hennessy Hall.

The significant feature of this structure, however, is that it cost the students not one penny.

As regard to the specific questions:

(a) Expenditure of Office of Security: Are they commensurate with the benefits gained? I think they are. This office is new on the Loras campus and perhaps the expenditures are high this year. I have asked, however, that every expenditure here be reduced to the minimum. But the security force involves the guardianship of all of the properties, the safety and protection of lives, not to mention traffic, parking, spectator safety, and numerous other details. Vandalism from sources outside the campus was a   problem before the security force was organized.

(b) Why are Department Chairmen not informed of their Budgets?

This is a weakness. Next year the Departmental Chairmen will be systematically involved in budget preparation.

Doctor Erfft is working on this detail. But I must state that the Business Office does have a specific budget for each Department; and rarely, if ever, is a department denied a legitimate request. Obviously, a priority is needed here.


(c) Faculty Secretarial Help

The supply of secretarial help is a matter of real concern. The faculty members of St. Joe's Hall are in need of more secretarial help, and they will receive it.

(d) Campus Improvements: Projects and Criteria

Specific requests for campus improvements are considered by the Administration. However, the need for better criteria in determining priorities for campus improvements resulted in the reactivation of the Campus Planning Committee. Earlier in the year I requested the Faculty to submit names to serve on this committee. The members have been appointed and this committee will function in the very near future.

(e) Administrative Office Furnishings

 Administrative office furnishings should not be extravagant.

Administrative Structure

Much attention is being given to the Administrative Structure of Loras College. A Title III Grant was obtained to assist in this area; and several nationally known consultants were employed. As this crisis-situation reflects, Loras College needs a more adequate structure for communication among the various segments of the College Community and for reaching decisions that affect student affairs. This structure is forthcoming.