

The story of the suspension of \_\_\_\_\_ Loras College black students must be understood in the context in which it happened.

The indefinite suspension of \_\_\_\_\_ black students is because of the forceful occupation of Henion Manor and the eviction of Loras staff members assigned to the offices of that building.

Msgr. Driscoll stated that whatever may be Loras' desire to further the education of black students, the College cannot tolerate from any student— despite his color or background— the flagrant violation of serious college regulations. The Loras Student Handbook clearly states: "Any student or group of students who disrupts or contributes to the disruption of the orderly operation of the college, or interferes with a duly authorized college program or activity, and thereby infringes upon the rights of others will be liable to suspension."

CONTROVERSY  
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A review of the Black Cultural Center at Loras will reveal the following facts:

1. In September of 1969, Loras College provided a large room on fifth floor of Keane Hall for black cultural and entertainment purposes.

2. On October 16th, the president, Msgr. Driscoll, received a formal petition for a non-residential Black Culture House "to be situated near the Loras campus, and be furnished by the school for the conveniency and comfort of the students".

This petition was immediately taken to the Board of Regents (October 17th) and the off campus house was refused, but an on-campus facility was offered, and Loras agreed to "provide the room-space, the utilities of heat, light, and other utilities". Likewise, a Special Study Committee was appointed to complete the details of the on-campus facility. Appointed to that Committee were:

Rev. Stanley J. Hayek (Dean of Students)  
Mr. Gerard B. Noonan (Registrar)  
Mr. Ocia Drake (Black Student)  
Mr. Thomas Jackson (Black Student)  
Mr. Patrick Winn (Student Senate)

Mr. Noonan, Mr. Jackson, and Mr. Winn are members of Faculty, Administration and Students Together <sup>(FAST)</sup>—a Committee to assist minority-group and special students.

On October 29th a group of black students called on Msgr. Driscoll to express their dissatisfaction with the offer without even giving the Special Study Committee an opportunity to meet on the topic.

On Sunday evening, November 2nd, the black students distributed printed materials throughout the residence halls at Loras making many charges and allegations.

At 1:15 P. M., Monday, November 3rd, the black students took over Henion Manor on the Loras campus.

Three attempts were made by the administration to discuss the matter with the students. They were requested by the Dean of Students to leave the building, and the President interviewed their representatives in front of Henion Manor.

Negotiations were carried on Monday night by representatives of the black students and the administration, and the President renewed a commitment which the Loras Administration had made and which was conveyed to the black students through the Dean of Students in a letter dated October 26, 1969. This commitment was to the effect that space would be allocated on campus for a Black Cultural Center. At 2:30 on the morning of November 4th, the black students evacuated Henion Manor.

The offer of facilities in Smyth Hall for a Black Cultural Center was reiterated by Msgr. Driscoll at a Press Conference called by the black students on the morning of Tuesday, November 4.

Msgr. Driscoll said that Loras College has been deeply interested in the welfare of black students, and has looked upon its contribution to the education of black students as an obligation of considerable importance. To that end, the College has made available scholarships, federal grants and loans, work grants, and other forms of financial assistance; it has hired a part time black counselor; it has instituted a program of black studies; it has adopted a new program this fall of academic counseling and special assistance for those black students whose academic preparation was marginal. "In our opinion, we have used every available means consonant with our resources and educational goals to fulfill the academic and other requirements of black students," Msgr. Driscoll stated.

He concluded that "whatever may be our desire to further the education of these students, we cannot tolerate from any student,—despite his color or background—the flagrant violation of serious college regulations. The decision to suspend these students has been made with deep regret, but with a realization that no other justifiable course of action was open."