

STUDENT SENATE FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND:

October 9, 1969:

A meeting of the Student Life Committee was held at which time a proposal was presented for a Black Cultural House; however, at this time the proposal was judged to be too general to be acted on by the committee.

October 14, 1969:

A more specific proposal was presented (cf. Appendix I). The committee then requested Msgr. Driscoll:

. . . to set up a committee to study the feasibility of a Black Cultural House and to make a progress report to the Black Students by October 28, 1969.

The proposal and this recommendation were included in a letter to Msgr. Driscoll dated October 16, 1969 by committee chairman Fr. Hayek.

October 17, 1969:

The members of the Loras College Board of Regents convened in their annual meeting. Msgr. Driscoll presented the above mentioned proposal to the Board. After much discussion and deliberation the unanimous opinion of the Board was that Loras College is not in a position to make a capital outlay for a Black Culture House. The Board referred the matter to the Council of Administration for further consideration.

October 23, 1969:

The Loras College Council of Administration met and reached specific conclusions (cf. Appendix II).

October 27, 1969:

Msgr. Driscoll acknowledged the letter of Fr. Hayek dated October 16, 1969 and the "Proposal for a Black Culture House" submitted by the Black Student Union of Loras College, dated October 14, 1969.

Fr. Hayek notified Ccra Drake of Msgr. Driscoll's decision. Mr. Drake expressed his personal displeasure with the decision but took it back to the rest of the black students for further discussion.

October 29, 1969:

A group of black students called on Msgr. Driscoll to express their dissatisfaction with his reply to their proposal.

October 30, 1969:

The Black Student Union met with the committee formed at the recommendation of the Loras College Council of Administration to discuss the proposal for a Black Culture House on campus. The committee decided to study and present specific recommendations to Msgr. Driscoll concerning the proposal for a Black Culture House.

November 3, 1969:

At 1:30 P.M. the Black Student Union began occupation of Henion Manor. No violence occurred, and one member of the Henion Manor staff was allowed to complete his work which lasted approximately twenty minutes after the black students entered the building. They maintained occupancy until approximately 2:30 A.M. November 4, 1969, during which time efforts to arrive at a solution were made by representatives of the Black Student Union, the committee appointed by Msgr. Driscoll, and Msgr. Driscoll.

At approximately 10:00 P.M. the committee drafted a proposal which was accepted by Msgr. Driscoll but rejected by the Black Student Union (cf. Appendix III).

Approximately 11:00 P.M. the committee drafted a second proposal which was accepted by the parties involved (cf. Appendix IV).

POSITIONS

THE BLACK STUDENT UNION:

What the Black Student Union found most displeasing in Msgr. Driscoll's reply was the fact that the proposal was brought to the Board of Regents without first fully investigating it. The black students feel that he should have first submitted the proposal to the Administration for consideration and investigation. An important point of contention is that the black students maintain that the decision against an off-campus location was made prior to the formation of the investigating committee.

The time limit for the reply to the proposal as sent by the Student Life Committee was designed both for the purpose of pressure and assurance that the President would act on the proposal within a reasonable amount of time.

To express this personal displeasure with Msgr. Driscoll's reply the black students met with him on October 29, 1969. The black students considered the meeting a failure because:

- A. Msgr. Driscoll was reluctant to speak to all the black students at one time;

- B. They failed to get his reasons against an off-campus location;
- C. He, in general, did not make his position clear.

There was no long range plan for the occupancy of Henion Manor, but the decision to do so was made only after Msgr. Driscoll's reply. The primary purpose of the occupancy was to make Msgr. Driscoll take a definite stand on the matter of the Black Cultural Center.

MSGR. JUSTIN A. DRISCOLL:

Prior to October 16, 1969, Msgr. Driscoll knew of the idea for a Black Culture House only through rumor. On October 16 he received a letter containing the proposal and an explanation of it from Fr. Hayek. The Student Life Committee requested Msgr. Driscoll to set up a committee to study the feasibility of a Black Cultural House and to make a progress report to the Black Student Union by October 28, 1969. Prior to the formation of the investigating committee Msgr. Driscoll presented the proposal as stated in Appendix I to the Board of Regents. His reasons for doing so were:

- A. He could not make such a purchase of off-campus property without the approval of the Board of Regents;
- B. And because the full Board would not meet again until February of 1970.

In Msgr. Driscoll's reply of October 27, 1969, he followed the Board's direction in saying "No" to the off-campus house; he agreed to the formation of an investigating committee and he agreed to on-campus facilities for the Black Cultural House. The refusal of the off-campus location was due not only to the inability of the college to make a capital outlay, but also other groups have appealed for such privileges and were refused even if a capital outlay was not a factor. Msgr. Driscoll thought that his meeting of October 29, 1969 with the black students was unsuccessful because of the number of black students involved and the failure of both parties to achieve an understanding of the other's position.

Msgr. Driscoll feels that he has met the requests of the Student Life Committee in the time allotted and he would not have taken this proposal to the Board of Regents if he did not feel that a Black Culture House was necessary and beneficial to the Loras Community.

RUMORS

RE: The Dubuque Police Department:

The Dubuque Police Department was on stand-by at the Police Station only until 6:30 P.M.; they were not place in the area of Henion Manor in any way whcih could be construed as inflammatory.

RE: Black players on the Basketball team:

No black basketball players have been suspended from the team due to this action taken on November 3, 1969. Coach Berry says that disciplinary action required must be taken by the administration.

This investigation has been undertaken and compiled by the co-editors of the Student Senate JOURNAL under the direction of the Student Senate as set down in the JOURNAL committee report of last Spring. Any errors contained herein are due to a lack of time avialable to compile and study the facts and positions. If any person or group has any corrections to make or additions to submit they will be welcomed.

APPENDIX I

PROPOSAL FOR A BLACK CULTURE HOUSE

The purpose for a Black Culture House will be to provide an academic and social environment for the Black Students who are residing within the realm of Loras College. The Black Culture House will be a non-residential area which shall be available for the enhancement of knowledge for the entire Loras Community.

The moderator of the Black Culture House will be the Black counselor. He would be assisted by the Black students.

The United States Office of Equal Opportunity or the Economic Opportunity grant may be a source of funds. This possibility should be investigated.

The Black Culture House should be situated near the Loras Campus, and be furnished by the school for the convenience and comfort of the students.

We, the Black Students of Loras College feel that the principle and philosophy of this proposal should be taken into deep consideration and be investigated thoroughly. We also feel that a response concerning the feasibility of such a proposal should be issued to the B.S.U. on October twenty eight, nineteen sixty nine.

THE BLACK STUDENT UNION
OF LORAS COLLEGE.

APPENDIX II

October 27, 1969.

Rev. Stanley J. Hayek
Dean of Students
Loras College
Dubuque, Iowa

Dear Fr. Hayek,

I wish to acknowledge your letter of October 16, 1969, and the enclosed document from the Black Student Union of Loras College, entitled "Proposal for a Black Culture House," dated October 14, 1969.

In your letter you state that the Student Life Committee passed the following resolution on October 14, 1969:

"The student life committee requests Msgr. Driscoll to set up a committee to study the feasibility of a Black Cultural House and to make a progress report to the Black Students by October 28, 1969."

Further, you mentioned in your letter that in asking for a response by October 28, 1969, the "Black Students are mainly concerned that there is evidence that something is being done.

The day after your letter reached me, the members of the Loras College Board of Regents convened in their annual meeting, October 17, 1969. As a result, I was able to take this request to the officers of the highest Board of Governors of this institution.

The Board of Regents discussed and deliberated the Proposal at length and it was the unanimous opinion of the Board that Loras College is not in a position to make a capital outlay for a Black Culture House. Also, the Board of Regents, referred the matter to the Council of Administration for any further consideration.

In view of this decision of the Board of Regents, the Loras College Council of Administration met on October 23, 1969, and reached the following conclusions:

1. That the possibility of an on-campus room or facility for Black Culture be investigated by a Special Study Com.
2. That the recommended Personnel for the Special Study Com. be
Rev. Stanley J. Hayek (Dean of Students)
Mr. Gerard B. Noonan (F.A.S.T.)
Mr. Ocia Drake (Student Life)
Mr. Thomas Jackson (F.A.S.T.)
Mr. Patrick Winn (F.A.S.T.)
3. That Loras College will endeavor to provide the room-space, the utilities of heat, light, and other utilities as they exist in the space selected.
4. That the students involved will provide all other expenses, for example, approved renovations, furnishings, custodial or security needs, and other expenses which may appear from time to time.

I am requesting you to convey this answer to the interested Black Students of Loras College.

Msgr. Justin Driscoll

APPENDIX III

APPENDIX IV

Proposal I
c. 10 p.m.

November 3, 1969

1. Black Students leave building (Henion Manor).
2. Recognize the importance and feel the need of a Black Cultural facility for Black Students.
3. Support the Committee and give every consideration to Committee's Report so long as it does not include Henion Manor.
4. Will expect Committee Report by November 14, 1969. Will give decision within two weeks.
5. Any discipline action will follow the procedures and rules as outlined in the Loras College Student Handbook.

APPENDIX III
APPENDIX IV

Proposal II
c. 11 p.m. November 3, 1969

Proposal I
c. 10 p.m. November 3, 1969

November 3, 1969

1. Why no Black Cultural House off campus?
The Black Cultural House off the Loras campus would violate principle established in not permitting other organizations such use.
2. No house is available off campus and the Board of Regents stated that no capital funds can be expended for purchase of such a house.
3. The offices in Henion Manor are serving a critical need for Loras College. The Committee recommends for consideration for use the South End of Smyth Hall for the Black Cultural Center. This space is available and the President has accepted this recommendation.
The details for the setting up of the Cultural Center would be worked out by the Committee on before November 7, 1969.
4. Any discipline action will follow the procedures and rules as outlined in the Loras College Student Handbook.