To: The College Community
From: Office of the President

I want to summarize what has happened since Friday evening. First, for the benefit of those who were not at the meeting in front of the Lucina at 6:30 on Friday, I indicated that the provisional suspension could not be lifted, under the Rules and Regulations for the Maintenance of Public Order on the Keuka College Campus.

Second, I want to report that on Saturday, just prior to the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board, I had a telephone call from Mr. Bomhoff requesting that he and Mrs. Bomhoff be allowed to speak to the Executive Committee. I asked the Executive Committee whether they would agree to have the Bomhoffs present a statement, and they did agree. Third, there was a request to me on Saturday that three students be allowed to meet with the Executive Committee. This request was also granted, and the students presented their statement.

I want to report two other communications which I have received which may not be known to the entire college community. Yesterday I was handed a two-page memorandum addressed to me, the Keuka College community and all black education. The document was unsigned. I was also handed a one-page memorandum addressed in the same way from four Keuka students. These documents, if you wish to see them, will be available at the Office of the Director of Communications. Other documents available there are the memoranda of April 15, 16, and 17, by means of which we have
tried to keep the college community informed of developments, decisions, and facts.

I want to refer particularly to one point in the memorandum of April 17. There, I drew a distinction between the disruption of the concert on Wednesday evening and the sit-in by certain students on Thursday. The provisional suspension was issued on Wednesday evening because there had been a series of incidents during the day, actual disruption of the concert, an attempted second entrance to the concert, and there was fear of further disruption. I specifically inquired of persons in Hegeman Hall on Thursday as to whether disruption was occurring and I was informed that it was not.

I do not have any other information, although many reports with respect to the number of students leaving the campus and the number of students staying on the campus have been given to me. You have as accurate information as I have on this question.

I want now to make several other comments:

First, it is apparent that there are clear differences of interpretation with respect to the black cultural center, the incident of last Wednesday evening, and the events that followed. I do not believe any useful purpose will be served today by my trying to expose my motives, or to judge the motives of others. That there are wide areas of disagreement, and misunderstandings, and a large amount of distrust among groups, we are all aware. I am certain you regret this as I do.

Now I express the hope that there can be a common effort to work at the causes of this distrust. Words alone, I am aware, cannot be effective;
there must be continued work for decisions that are just, and in the best interests of this community.

Second, I express my appreciation to the members of the Judiciary Board, and especially to the Co-op Counsel, for their persistence in planning for a fair and just conclusion of the cases before the Board;

to Janet Lundstrom, Lisa Feinberg, and Buffy Roche, for their courteous and gentle presentation of their views to the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees on last Saturday;

to Kate Blokzeyl and the other students who set up and staffed the Rumor Control Center;

to the many students who have written letters to me during the last week;

to the Faculty members who have volunteered their time to discuss College policies with student groups, who have talked with parents who called the College, who have provided counsel in the making of decisions;

finally, and especially, to the black students of Keuka College; for patience, for restraint, for courage. I do not agree with the action taken by those students who left the campus. I believe this action was the result of many misunderstandings. It is pointless to blame administrators or faculty or white students or black students for the rumors which have spread --- ALL of us are to blame: NONE of us is completely innocent.

Though I believe that the students who left received bad advice from white and black advisers, I recognize the pride of their reaction; I admit that they have shown courage by their public act of leaving.

The black students who decided to stay at Keuka have in my judgment shown even more courage by their public act of staying. They have not been shown yet
that the judicial system at this College can work fairly and justly. But they have refused to condemn all other Keuka administrators and faculty and students as "white racists" until the judicial system has been given a chance.

Third, in separating fact from rumor I urge you to talk to the Faculty about the policies which govern the College.

If you judge, as many of you may, that these policies need revision, I hope you will be willing to participate in the process of revising them.

Fourth, it is clear that many people in the college regard our communication system as inadequate. For those who do, I hope your specific suggestions for improvement can be sent soon to Mr. Westerdahl.

Fifth, on the specific issue of the black cultural center, I want to say that my commitment to this center stands. I assume all of you have received notification of the action taken on Saturday by the Executive Committee of the Board. If you do not have this memorandum, the Director of Communications will provide you with a copy.

Finally, I am aware that some have taken comfort in the actions of the past week and have interpreted these actions in terms of victories and defeats. Whatever others may wish to infer, my own feeling is one of profound sadness but of an equal determination that we shall continue to work through the policies and the persons responsible for acting on these policies to resolve the issues which divide us.

Last Tuesday evening at a meeting in the Chapel, Professor Diamond suggested that perhaps the time had come for a moratorium on conversation. With the additional events of the past week I would suggest that all of us are so emotionally drained that it is time to take Professor Diamond's suggestion. If there are questions which should be dealt with at
a later time, I would ask you to give these to the President of Cooperative Government, Christine Head, and we shall determine at a later time what the appropriate way to deal with these will be.

Copies of this statement are available as you leave the Chapel. I want to thank you for your attention. This meeting is adjourned.

G. Wayne Glick