

Black Tutoring Program Grows

By JOHN NEWHOUSE
(Of The State Journal Staff)

It's called the "Special Program of Tutorial and Financial Assistance."

It opens the doors of the University of Wisconsin to Negro men and women, many of them from the nation's ghettos, who otherwise wouldn't have a chance to get into — or stay in — a university.

All of them are rated in the lower 1 or 2 per cent on the university's "predicted success" scale.

But 80 per cent of them will "make the grade," academically.

FOR THE out-of-state students — and the program goes to the states where the chances of the Negro in his home state are the lowest, the annual report on the program says:

"To be selected, a non-resident student must be inadmissible to the university."

Under the program, they come here.

They are given total financial aid, which need not be paid back, for their first year at the University of Wisconsin.

They are given five years to make the grade, instead of four, in a program accepted by the deans of the school.

And they are given tutors, at the rate of one tutor for each course, to help them make up for the years, academically, which they have lost.

THE PROGRAM has been cited as one of the best, if not the best, in the nation.

It started small, and it is growing.

There were 24 starting in the fall of 1966. The next fall, 63 started. Last fall, 106 registered. Next fall, some 200 have been approved for admittance.

At the time of the annual report, last November, there were 175 students in the program on the campus.

Of the original 24, exactly 14 are still here.

One of those who had to be dropped from out-of-state, Willie Erwards, has been a leader in current black students' demands.

SOUTHERN EDUCATION

Report sent a writer to 200 colleges to see what they were doing for the disadvantaged student. He was so impressed by Wisconsin that he made Wisconsin one of five return trips. He wrote:

"The high risk program on the Madison campus is notable for two reasons. It has a well organized and highly flexible system of tutors and tutor-supervisors. And it has Ruth Doyle."

Mrs. Doyle was a voice in the wilderness in 1964 when the Madison Chapter of the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was making a survey of Negroes on the campus and bogged down.

On her own, and without pay, she finished the survey that year. She made it the next. She talked to Negroes, and learned their problems. She wangled some money to invite 24 Negro students to come to Madison in 1966.

The program grew. Mistakes were made. The first year, students were not fully told of the needed for tutors. Some were bitter. This was corrected. The number of tutors, who work free, grew to more than 300.

EACH STUDENT got an average of one hour of tutoring, free, per subject per week — and some got more. Each student had three or four tutors.

Student and tutor did not always get along.

Almost all students needed aid. Of the 175 on the campus in November, all but three got financial assistance. Aids ranged in the first year from \$1,850 to Wisconsin students to as high as \$2,850 for out-of-state students.

AND THE program makes a decided effort to recruit Wisconsin students but accepts out-of-state applicants. Of the 106 who entered last fall, 57 were residents of Wisconsin, the remaining 49 were from 17 other states.

By last fall, \$334,500 — none of it state tax money — had been paid in support of the program.

As the program grew, a faculty advisory committee was added. Black students protested. Five students were added. Soon a black assistant James Baugh, was added to the program, working under Mrs. Doyle.

In November, Mrs. Doyle addressed a group at the Sveden House, and made known her feelings on the need for integration of blacks and whites at the University.

This came at a time when black demands were being made for separate facilities. A demand for her ouster was made.

A WEEK LATER, black students and the advisory committee met with the chancellor, to demand that Mrs. Doyle be replaced by two blacks, a Mexican, and one American Indian.

Several days later, the advisory committee met and voted for the immediate removal of Mrs. Doyle. The vote was transmitted to the chancellor. The chancellor appointed Dean of Special Affairs Samuel Proctor, a Negro, as chairman of a review committee.

THE TASK FORCE was formally set up by Jan. 6. By Jan. 20, Mrs. Doyle had offered her resignation from the task force, and now has moved to another post in the University.

Members of the task force remaining are Merritt Novell, assistant to Chandler Young, vice-chancellor of student affairs; Wallace Douma, director of financial aids; James Baugh, former associate director, and Young. Baugh and Novell are black.