

Dartmouth's Class of '73 Is 10% Black

By DAVID E. ROSENBAUM
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HANOVER, N. H., Sept. 17 —This is freshman week here at Dartmouth, and the legions of bewildered young men in their caps and new college T-shirts, scurrying across the green, provide a familiar annual scene.

But until the year when women are admitted to the college, there may be no class as different from its predecessors as is the Class of 1973.

For among the 855 freshmen who arrived here Monday are 90 Negroes. This in a school that has graduated fewer than 150 black men in its 200-year history; in a town that has only three or four black families, and in a rural setting two and a half hours by car from the nearest city.

Other Eastern schools have taken similar steps this year. Harvard has 95 Negroes in a freshman class of 1,200 (it had 40 to 45 in 1966; Brown 77 out of 818 (8 in 1966); Wesleyan, 51 out of 335 (30 in 1966), and Yale 96 out of 1,255 (31 in 1966).

For several years the admissions office has been accepting every Negro applicant who had what the admissions office believed were the academic credentials that would lead to a Dartmouth degree. The result was 8, 10 or maybe 20 Negroes in each class. Last year's freshman class had 30 Negroes a record for the school.

'Just Aren't Enough'

"We would love to take more, but there just aren't enough qualified blacks." That was the standard line of the administration.

Then, last year, the black students already on campus disputed this: "Give us some travel money, and we'll find them," they said.

The college agreed. Five million dollars was committed over a five-year period for staff, recruiting and especially for increased financial aid.

And, beginning last Christmas and continuing throughout the spring, members of the Afro-American Society went on the road. They traveled from Boston to New Orleans to Los Angeles, to every large city in the country, visiting high schools and hangouts.

"They were simply magnificent," said Charles F. Dey, the dean of the Tucker Foundation, a special college endowment that financed the recruiting drive. "They spoke to these kids as brothers, and that's something we could never have done."

130 of 230 Accepted

Edward T. Chamberlain, the dean of admissions, agreed. "We just didn't know how to recruit blacks," he said. "We had no experience."

Of the 230 Negroes who applied for admission this year, 130 were accepted. Unlike the blacks in earlier classes, most of whom were sons of middle-class professional men, at least half of



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Freshmen on the Hanover, N. H., campus are, from left, Charles Box of Rockford, Ill.; Bob Norton, Sandstone, Minn.; Josh Holloway, Chesapeake, Va.; Vince Lewis, Cincinnati.

the 90 who decided to come to Dartmouth this fall are from poor families.

A third of the 90 are from the South. The rest are nearly all from big cities. All but a handful have financial aid.

"It's not fair to say we lowered our standards," Dean Chamberlain said in an interview. "What we did was to apply the minimum standard of admissions. In other words, we accepted all the black applicants who we were certain had the ability to make it through Dartmouth and graduate."

"It is true, he said, that the blacks averaged about 100 points lower on their college board scores than the white freshmen, but then "college boards are not a major factor."

To accommodate the influx of freshmen with poor academic backgrounds, several departments of the faculty made major changes.

The English department hired as an associate professor John E. Lincoln, an expert in remedial writing. He will teach a special freshman English course. The

mathematics department is offering for the first time a course below the level of calculus.

Over the summer, the college provided a special program called "Bridge" for 22 of the black students. They took regular college courses and received full credit for them. But the small classes enabled them to receive individual attention and to acclimate themselves to a college environment.

Alfred W. Sloan, who graduated in June and who was

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in over-all charge of the black recruitment effort, believes the "quality of the Dartmouth education" is worth the social deprivations."

"We leveled with these guys when we recruited them," Mr. Sloan, now a student at Harvard Business School, said in an interview.

"There are a lot of sterile aspects about Dartmouth and Hanover. There aren't any women, and if you can't afford a car it can be hard to get down to Boston where there are black women. In addition, Hanover is the epitome of a white liberal town.

"But on the other hand, if you've lived in a ghetto all your life, a serene environment can offer a time for reflection. You get educated at Dartmouth, you meet other outstanding blacks, you think about your life and then maybe you're better prepared to go back and do some real good in your community."

Not all of the upper-class blacks agree. Zack Brown, a junior from Norfolk, Va., refused to help in the recruiting.

"I'm just sick of going to school without women," he said. "I don't like Dartmouth enough to advise anyone else to come here."

Lawrence Riddick, a sophomore from Harlem, said, "I missed the city. Maybe I should have gone to Columbia or City College."

But nearly all of the Negroes on campus last spring participated in the recruitment effort.

"It seems to me that we need all the skills and tools we can get, and Dartmouth is the place to get them,"

said Dennis Young, a senior.

There was another reason for the time and energy the upper-class blacks spent persuading others to come to Hanover.

"It was a little selfish," said Tony Harley, a junior from Chicago. "We want a black community here. The more of us there, are the more comfortable we feel, and the more strength we have the more we can get what we want from the school."

Freshmen Are Wide-Eyed

The black freshmen are as wide-eyed as any other freshmen. After three days, they don't know what to expect, but they're pretty sure they haven't been duped into coming some place against their best interest.

Some, like Ronald L. Cope-land of Rochester, N. Y., had never heard of Dartmouth before they were recruited. Others, like John Moody, came because of the prestige.

Mike Allyson, of Jacksonville, Fla., came almost to prove a point. He explained:

"When I was in my first year in high school, a black brother I knew and really liked—a really bright guy—wanted to go to Dartmouth. They turned him down. The word was that you couldn't get into Dartmouth if you were black. I decided right then that that's where I'd go."

As he was talking, walking down Main Street, he was hailed by a friend.

"Hi, brother," Mike called out.

"Hey, man," said the friend. "You got that French exam?"

"I got two. I live in Streeter. Just come by and get it."

And Dennis Young, the senior, smiled. "When I got here, I was almost by myself," he said.