

RICHMOND TIMES DISPATCH
November 29, 1959

NEGROES ATTEND 6 STATE COLLEGES

By Allan Jones

Forty-eight Negroes are attending classes with white students this year at six Virginia institutions of higher learning.

Four of the colleges--the Medical College of Virginia, Richmond Professional Institute, the University of Virginia and Virginia Polytechnic Institute--are tax-supported.

The other institutions, Bridgewater College and Eastern Mennonite College, are private schools. Here is a breakdown of the number of Negroes in each of the colleges affected:

Medical College of Virginia	16
Richmond Professional Institute	5
University of Virginia	18
Virginia Polytechnic Institute	2
Bridgewater College	2
Eastern Mennonite College	<u>5</u>
Total	48

One institution considered "Negro" reported it has nine white students this year. This is Hampton Institute.

Virginia Union University said it has no white students this year, but has had them. Virginia State College said white students have applied there in the past.

The first white college in Virginia to desegregate was Eastern Mennonite College, a small church-affiliated school at Harrisonburg.

The University of Virginia was the first public institution of higher learning to admit Negroes. The university was compelled by a court order to admit a Negro to its law school in 1950.

The Medical College of Virginia and Richmond Professional Institute first enrolled Negroes in 1951; Virginia Polytechnic Institute admitted them in 1953, and Bridgewater College admitted them in 1954.

Authorities at Hampton Institute said they have had white students on an occasional basis since 1877, and continuously since 1946.

Authorities at both public and private colleges said in response to a survey by the Times-Dispatch and Southern School News that there is no discernible trend in the number of applications or admissions.

The tax-supported white institutions of higher learning exercise what could be called a policy of containment. In general, they admit only Virginia Negroes who seek courses that are not available at state-supported Negro colleges.

Number has Fluctuated

The number of Negroes enrolled at the public schools has fluctuated. The number at the University of Virginia has declined from 24 in 1956. Only eight Negroes have attended VPI since the first one was admitted in 1953, and the number of Negroes at MCV has ranged from two to 17.

There is some variation among the colleges in housing and the specific courses in which Negroes may enroll.

At the University of Virginia Negroes have been admitted only into the professional and graduate schools -- the schools of law, medicine, education and engineering, and the graduate school of arts and sciences. Negro students live in regular dormitories and eat in regular cafeterias.

Unique in State

Only the graduate school of social work is desegregated at Richmond Professional Institute. It is the only school of its kind in Virginia. The College, a division of the College of William and Mary, doesn't provide dormitory facilities for graduate students.

VPI will admit graduate or undergraduate Negro students, but they must be Virginians and want to study engineering or some other subject not offered at Virginia State College (for Negroes).

Thus far, Negroes have applied for admission only at the undergraduate level at VPI. They are not quartered in the dormitories, nor do they eat in the college dining hall. Arrangements are made for them to live with Negro families in Blacksburg.

At Bridgewater College, no Negroes have been admitted to the dormitories and none has boarded regularly at the college dining hall. They are permitted to eat at the college snack shop, however. The college offers only undergraduate courses.

MCV Policy

The Medical College of Virginia enrolls qualified Negroes in its schools of dentistry, medicine, pharmacy, physical therapy, medical technology, X-ray technology, the graduate school and its four-year nursing program. No living accommodations are provided for Negroes.

All the Negroes at Eastern Mennonite College are undergraduate students. They live in regular dormitories and eat with white students. Three of the five Negroes at the college this year are exchange students from Africa. The institution inaugurated its desegregation policy in 1948 with the admission of African students.

Both graduate and undergraduate white students may enroll at Hampton Institute. Authorities there said the students are permitted unrestricted use of dormitory and cafeteria facilities.

One other public institution, the College of William and Mary at Williamsburg, has admitted Negroes in the past. A Negro woman enrolled in the law school about five years ago, but did not graduate.

An undetermined number of Negroes are enrolled this year in extension courses sponsored by the University of Virginia. They have been admitted only for graduate or professional work, however.

A number of other public and private colleges queried said they have a policy against admitting Negroes, or have had no applications from members of this race.