

Cops And Tops Join Forces For Summer

ROCHESTER, N. Y. — About 100 youngsters from Rochester's inner city started their summer last week in police headquarters.

They were happy to be there and the police were happy to have them. The youngsters are enrollees in the third summer program of Rochester's Teens on Patrol (TOPS).

After a week of instruction, they work in cooperation with the police at playgrounds, parks, swim areas, libraries, and special inner-city functions.

The program, which originated in Rochester, has been closely watched, praised, and copied by cities across the country. It was started in June, 1967, through an Eastman Kodak Company financial grant when Rochester Jobs, Incorporated (RJI), sought to help provide summer jobs for youth. Kodak has continued to support the program on a year-round basis through RJI.

The primary goal of TOP is the improvement of relations and understanding between youth and law enforcement officers.

William M. Lombard, Rochester's police chief, says, "We have seen positive results. There has been an improvement in the relationship between youths and the police department. TOPS—and even those youngsters who are not in the program—understand us better."

The benefits work two ways: Lt. Thomas F. Hastings, director of the Police Community Service Division and the administrator of TOP, says, "My outlook has changed. So has the outlook of other policemen who have come in contact with the TOPS. All of us now understand the problems of the inner city better. A line of communication has been opened."

Most of the TOP teenagers are black, but there are some Puerto Rican and white youngsters in the program. A few are girls. All of the youngsters are hired as civilian employees of the Rochester Police Bureau. This means that they do not have police power. Each is paid \$1.75 an hour for a workday and each receives a TOP uniform that consists of a white T-shirt and blue jacket. The jacket has an emblem—the blue seal of the

city set on a white background with the letters TOP above.

In the two winters since the program began, 30 TOP youngsters have worked after school in libraries and playgrounds.

A couple of examples indicate how the program is working: One Puerto Rican lad was stationed in a patrol car with an officer at a busy intersection. He saw that the officer gave tickets only to those who flagrantly broke the law by running stop signs at the crossing.

"Prior to this experience," Lt. Hastings said, "the youth believed that a policeman gave tickets to anyone he wanted to, at random. Now this boy is a strong supporter of the police. Without TOP this youngster's response to the police would have been doubtful at best."

Several TOP youngsters are stationed in Rochester's Genesee Park, along the Genesee river, to prevent vandalism, bullying, and general rowdiness. One day last summer there were two separate canoe accidents. Five TOPS youngsters were involved in saving the lives of the canoe occupants.

The police officer at the park says, "There is no doubt we would have had drownings if it hadn't been for the TOPS. Their speedy response adds another dimension to their contribution out here. Throughout the summer they have made the park a safer, happier, better place for the people of Rochester. And we have been freed for more important police work."

The attitude of the life savers, who admittedly had spent some time "messing around" the park before they became TOPS, underwent some interesting changes.

One said, "we were only there late that night because it was hot and people were around late. We weren't getting paid overtime or anything. We just thought we were needed."

Another commented, "I learned something. Those cats we saved didn't even thank us. How can people act like that?"

Lt. Hastings feels that the entire Rochester community is benefiting from the changes in attitude resulting from the program.

He says, "In the inner city, brutality was always associated with arrest. With understanding, TOPS—many of whom were formerly police critics—are now calling for more rigid law enforcement in the inner city."

He adds, "TOP can be a big door-opener for us in the inner city to help recruit more Negro and other minority policemen."



A TOP SESSION—Rochester Police Sergeant Don Williams (left) discusses map of city patrol districts with members of Rochester's Teens On Patrol (TOP). This instruction was part of the 1969 orientation week for the 100 TOPS who will be working with the police at city playgrounds, swim areas, parks, libraries, and neighborhood functions. TOP is in its third summer and is funded through an Eastman Kodak grant to Rochester Jobs, Incorporated.

LDF Introduces Computer Results To Speed Mixing Of Tex. Schools

HOUSTON — A plan to completely integrate this city's 250,000 school children by September — devised by research scientists via a computer—will be introduced in U. S. District Court this week.

Attorneys of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., who have been pursuing this case since 1956, said that the computer was given one set of comprehensive and pertinent data about the Houston School System.

This data—number and location of schools plus racial composition and location of students—was generated by the computer in a short period of time into "several alternate student assignment schemes."

These plans, the LDF attorneys point out, were then evaluated for their individual merits, and the best one selected.

The alternate plans were rechecked.

One section of the city, representing 1/5 of the total population and area, was run through the computer three

times to be certain none of the alternates was superior to the plan selected.

All plans were judged on two crucial criteria: busing costs and the level of desegregation achieved.

The plan "with the most satisfactory balance between the two factors" was selected. It was then used as a model for devising the integration pattern for the other four sections of the city.

The data was programmed for the LDF by ABT Associates, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass. It was then put into the computer by AVCO Computer Services of Wilmington, Mass., under the direction of Robert Norbed, system analyst.

LDF attorneys consider Houston as the "lead case" for bringing complete integration to school systems of large southern cities.

Results of this argument may affect pending LDF litigation in Dallas, Atlanta, and Memphis. The LDF maintains that the "freedom-of-choice" method of school integration, which has

been practiced in Houston for the past several years, has brought only token results.

(Under "freedom-of-choice" the students select the school they attend. However, experience shows that the weight of progress has been placed on Negro parents and children.)

During the Houston trial, which is expected to last two weeks, LDF attorneys will also ask for integration of faculty and staff by September.

They will stress that during the last school year 79.8 per cent of the white students attended schools which had more than 95 per cent white student bodies.

Veterans transferring to new jobs in new locations should get releases in writing on their present GI home loans from the VA.

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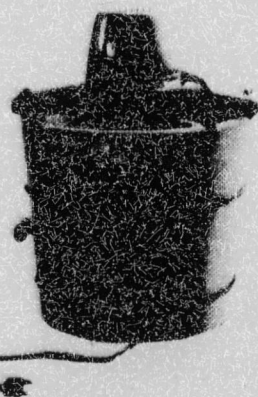


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SEVENTH NAME CHANGE

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — For the seventh time in its 85-year history, Alabama State College has undergone a change in name. Effective immediately, the school is now known as Alabama State University. Twice before it had "university status," during 1874-1887, when it was known as State Normal School and university; and 1887-1889, as Alabama Colored People University.

BLACK STUDIES AIDED

NEW YORK—The United Negro College fund, Atlanta University, Rust College and Hampton Institute have received grants to aid their programs on Afro-American culture and history. The UNCF, Rust and Hampton received their grants from the 3M company (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing) to provide microfilm research centers and materials on Afro-American history and culture. Atlanta won a Ford Foundation grant to catalogue and restore materials in its Negro collections housed in the Trevor Arnett Library.

BLACK STUDIES MAJOR

BALTIMORE — Morgan State College will be offering among its eight new majors for the fall term, one in Afro-American studies in its department of history. The course is at the baccalaureate degree level. Other new majors include music education, reading, business administration, educational administration and supervision, sociology-social welfare, and health-physical education-creation.

SCHOOL RENEWAL

BATON ROUGE, La. — It is Dr. E. C. Harrison's opinion that the need to desegregate schools "presents an opportunity for the renewal of the total school system as well as for self-renewal on the part of school personnel." The Southern University vice president for academic affairs noted that it was wrong to assume that "Negro teachers alone are in need of further training. White teachers too will need to be retrained. In fact, all teachers are in constant need of retraining because both are working with unfamiliar human talent."