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Maine Campus_Maine Campus_University starts Martin Luther King Scholarship program

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Fund established

University starts Martin Luther King Scholarship program

Seven Negro students who did not receive a letter of acceptance from an American college last spring will spend four years at the University of Maine. They will attend because a student, faculty, and administration committee decided this would be the most fitting memorial for the slain civil rights leader, Martin Luther King.

James A. Harmon, director of admissions, and Professor Maurice O. White of the College of Education interviewed applicants for the King scholarships in Washington, D.C., July 19. The interviews were held at Federal City College, which had 2000 more freshmen applications than it could take. The 2000 places available were filled by lottery and the school’s director of admissions, Luther McManus, has been trying to find colleges for the other 2000. Sixty expressed interest in Maine’s program and of the 21 interviewed, seven were accepted by Harmon and White for this fall’s freshman class.

The program, Professor White explained, will be concerned with “living on a day to day basis. First the first semester, then the first year.” Tutoring and remedial work will be provided as needed, but the students will be enrolled in regular classes and treated as other students.

Educators hope the program will grow to include black students from all the United States and students from other disadvantaged and minority groups. Of the several possibilities open to Negro students, this program was chosen because educators believe the interaction of these students with Maine citizens will be beneficial to both.