

Ghetto Dropouts Get Chance At U

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Six ghetto dropouts from Chicago will enter the University this fall.

The six, described by A. C. Emery, provost, as dropouts, lockouts and fallouts" are graduates of the Christian Action Ministry (CAM) Academy located in the heart of the Chicago black ghetto.

CAM Academy, cooperatively sponsored by Catholic and Protestant churches and staffed by hippies and black college student volunteers, has helped raise the math and verbal levels of its dropout students five to six grades.

"Now," says Kerry Segel, special assistant to the ASUU president for community equality, "these students definitely want University educations, and the University dearly wants them to succeed."

There are three boys and three girls in the group of six. Their names are Paula

Patterson, Sandra Brown, Gloria Brown, Bill Bey, Leroy Lyons, and James Evans.

While touring the West with CAM last spring the students visited and talked with faculty, student leaders and dormitory personnel.

"They're groovy people," said Segel, who met them at that time. "They're very honest, and they're not afraid to say what they feel. They want to mix with University students, but they're highly individual people with high ambitions."

Lyons, said Segel, wants to be the first Negro studentbody president at the University. Bey hopes to teach a Free University class in African Rug Weaving (he also plays guitar), and Evans wants to be a medical student.

According to Alden Miller of the counseling center who is coordinating the group's activities, the students' foremost goal is to set up a CAM Academy in the central city.

"They will participate in programs in the

Union and residence halls," say Miller. "We want this to be a fairly organic experience, and we're pulling in everything we have."

The students will go through a "transitional year" program which will fully orient them to college work. Other students will act as "big brothers" and "big sisters." The six will receive individual tutoring.

"They realize they're going to have to work hard," Segel said. "They are very strong in creative skills and logical deduction, but their verbal skills are not excessively high."

"But really they are doing so much more for us than we can hope to do for them at this stage," added Segel.

"They will help us form a transitional year program for individuals from underprivileged backgrounds, and more important, will help expand the cultural horizons of the average University student who has

never talked at length with a Negro."

The training the students received at CAM Academy was quite different from that offered in the average high school, said Segel.

The academy is free to any dropout.

Students there are not placed in grades according to age and do not receive marks. Teachers are addressed by first names.

The students are taught logical thinking, and memorization of facts is de-emphasized. Teachers don't lecture to students, but instead assist them in looking up material from library books, formulating original hypotheses, and reaching conclusions based on evidence and logic.

It will cost about \$12,000 dollars for the six to attend the University for a year, according to a memorandum sent to the faculty by Dr. Emery.

The Development Office has established the "Midwest Students Fund" to assist the students. ASUU has donated \$1,000 to the fund, and dormitories have given \$500.