By JULIE PALM
Staff Writer

25 years after integration, faculty and staff assess progress

Twenty-five years ago, Allene Jones became the first black undergraduate to attend TCU, and the last barrier to the admission of blacks was knocked down.

On Jan. 23, 1964, Chancellor McGruder Sadler called a special meeting of the Board of Trustees to discuss university policy and integration. At that meeting the Board voted in a ratio close to 5-1 in favor of adopting a proposal stating that "students be enrolled without reference to race, creed or nationality."

Jones said she encountered no negative attitudes or behavior when she started classes.

"No one said anything derogatory. Everyone was very courteous, very kind," she said.

Jones graduated with a bachelor's degree in nursing and is now an assistant professor of nursing at TCU.

"I had been going to (Texas Women's College) for classes, but when TCU integrated I decided to come here for convenience. It was closer," Jones said.

"At the time there was a whole national movement toward integration," Proffer said. "There was a lot of integration in the schools - in colleges and universities."

Despite the national movement to end segregation, not everyone was in favor of TCU's decision. Bill Sherley resigned his position on the Board of Trustees because of the Board's action.

Proffer said there was little open opposition to the Board's decision.

"There was really no conflict. I think students felt it was long past its time," Proffer said. "I'm sure there were some letters to (Chancellor) Sadler, but there wasn't a lot of open opposition."

Although the resolution approved by the Board of Trustees in 1964 was TCU's most comprehensive effort to remove race-based admission restrictions, the university had begun the integration process about 20 years earlier.

TCU allowed minority enrollment before 1964 in four areas of the university - the Evening College, the School of Education, Brite College of the Bible, now Brite Divinity School, and Harris College of Nursing.

The Evening College, which offered classes to adults who wanted a general education but who would not earn a degree, admitted black military personnel in 1942.

In 1951, the School of Education began teaching classes for blacks who wished to earn master's degrees. The classes were taught at Gay Street Elementary School in the afternoon after the elementary kids were done.
Equality / from Page 1

with classes because black students were not allowed on the TCU campus, Proffer said.

Lottie Mae Hamilton attended those classes with several other blacks while she was principal of the school. "There were about nine or 10 teachers from the school taking the classes, too," Hamilton said.

Hamilton said she met with some resistance when she first tried to take classes at Gay Street. "I had to beg my way in," she said.

In 1952, Brite Divinity also began admitting blacks.

Although blacks were allowed to earn degrees from all four of these schools, Hamilton and others were not allowed to participate in graduation ceremonies.

In the spring of 1963 a group of students and members of the Board of Trustees met to discuss the university's racial policy and the possibility of fully integrating TCU. This meeting moved the Board towards its decision the following year.

A quarter of a decade after integration, TCU's admissions policy states that "TCU admits qualified students without regard to race, color, creed, sex, age, handicap, ethnic or national origin," according to the TCU handbook.

"Today people realize they live in a world with a lot of different kinds of people. If you go through school with people just like you, you're not getting a good education," Proffer said.

Today black students make up 3.7 percent of the student body, said Mary Kinc cannon, assistant registrar. That figure is based on information provided voluntarily by students.