

First Negro Enters Mississippi State U.

By United Press International

STARKVILLE, Miss.—Richard Holmes, Negro, reports for his first classes today at Mississippi State University after quietly registering here yesterday under the watchful eyes of police and casual scrutiny of white classmates. Starkville is his home.

There were no incidents as the young transfer student

signed up for two courses—psychology and American government—becoming the first of his race admitted to the previously all-white institution. Holmes said he received rather warm reception and high-rated Mississippi university met no hostility at all. He added he “had no fear—no apprehension.”

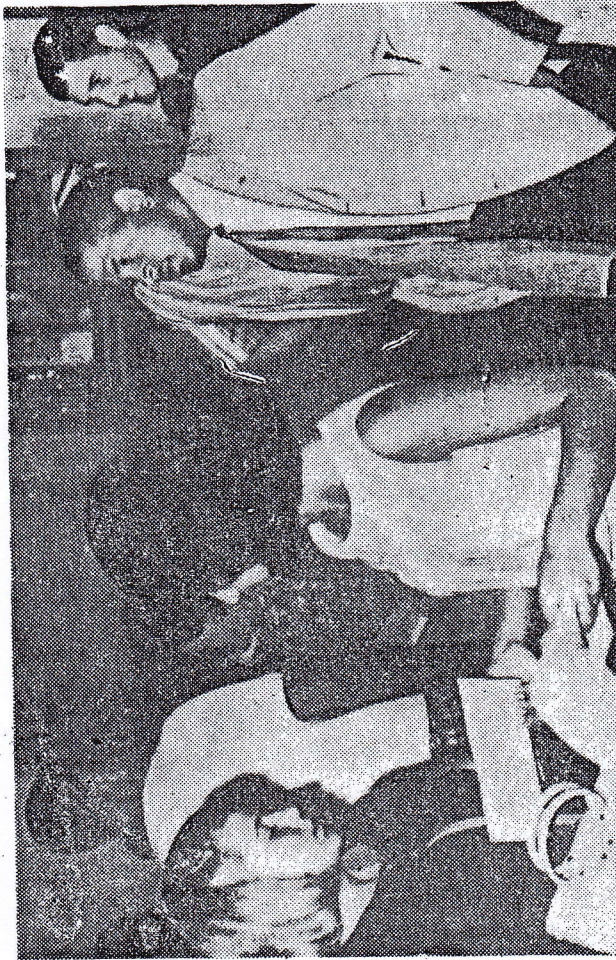
Most white students paid him little notice after a first curious glance. A few nodded when they passed the stockily built 21-year-old Negro on the campus and Holmes stopped to chat briefly with three

white students.

Holmes, son of a local Negro physician, said he hoped the first of public would “forget that I am here. I did not come here for fanfare or publicity . . . I am here to study and learn at a high-rated Mississippi university which happens to be in my home town.”

He said he had never engaged in civil rights work and decided on his own to seek admission to Mississippi State.

He was accepted without a court order. He said he hoped to enter medical college in the future.



HISTORIC MOMENT—Richard Holmes, Starkville, Miss., Negro, is pictured as he registered yesterday at Mississippi State University, the first in the previous all-white school. There were no incidents. *MS 7-20*

—United Press International Telephoto

