Jr. College Plan Unsatisfactory
To Negroes; 2 Ask Integration

BY DORIS MCEER JONES
Herald Staff Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE — Two Negro students Wednesday filed applications at Broward County Junior College for admission there this September.

Both are "older students" who were graduated from Dillard High School in 1954. They are James L. Vickers, 25, of 415 NW Sixth Ave., and Mrs. Constance Nuby, 24, of 46 NW 10th Ave., Dania.

President Joe B. Rushing said according to present school board instructions their applications will be processed for admission to a Negro junior college branch to be established at Dillard this fall.

However, both prospective students explained they specifically are applying for entrance into the white college which, they claim, is better equipped.

"I have had an eye toward attending this school since it opened," Vickers said. "A junior college at a high school deprecates the college as well as the high school and I'm not interested in attending a junior college at Dillard."

Said Mrs. Nuby: "I applied to enter the junior college and this is the only one that is already established. I see no reason for waiting for another one to be set up."

Louis D. Benton, spokesman for one of two Negro groups which previously requested integration of the junior college, said Wednesday the action of Vickers and Mrs. Nuby "came as a surprise" although they had discussed the possibility with him.

The step was finally taken, he said, as a result of "delaying tactics" on the part of the School Board which "stalled around and given us no answer on the integration request."

Superintendent Myron L. Ashmore said he does not intend to call a special board meeting to discuss the issue but will bring it up for discussion at the next regular meeting May 25.

Board chairman Virginia Young said she had no comment until the entire board discussed the issue.

Ashmore said: "Our tentative plans to set up a Negro junior college at Dillard have not been fully approved by the board."

He emphasized he had explained the board's delay to Negro leaders by contacting those who had requested integration.

"I told them we did not want to take any action locally until we could find out how much money the legislature would appropriate for junior college operations and capital outlay. These are things we need to know before we can do much planning," Ashmore said.

"The college at Naval Air Station has to be expanded now. We're moving out our exceptional child program and Forman Elementary School to provide more space there."

"The best laboratory facilities are available at Dillard and there is space there for the Negro program. It's a logical move to take, like nine-tenths of the junior colleges in Florida — initially to start a junior college in existing high school facilities."

Vickers, unemployed father of five children, said he plans to work at night while attending college and would like to major in psychology, later becoming a teacher in that field.

Mrs. Nuby, mother of three children and co-manager with her husband of a Dania apartment house, said she was undecided about a major but probably would take basic courses enabling her to transfer to a senior college later.

Benton said he knows other Negro students who plan to take similar action and predicted that if they are assigned to the Dillard center the school board will face court suits to force integration.

Benton added, however, that now that students have taken action they "probably can count on support" from the Broward County Negro council of voters leagues.