



Raymond Giles

"The biggest obstacle to students from segregated areas is lack of self-confidence. This can often be easily overcome simply by sheer determination."

Raymond Giles '61, who recently served with the Domestic Peace Corps and is now completing work at Hunter for his Master's Degree, is an illustration of that "sheer determination" to which he refers.

"I was born in Central Harlem and lived there until July, 1961. I graduated from JHS 139, a 'special service' school. I went on to vocational high school, but I soon dropped out and enlisted in the Navy. I served in the Korean War.

"My parents had always encouraged me to go as far as I could and to take advantage of whatever opportunities were available to me. After leaving the Navy, I began to attend evening high school and later, when I got my high school diploma, I entered Hunter where I majored in International Affairs."

After winning his degree at Hunter, Ray was one of four young men sent to the Dominican Republic by the Overseas Department of the National Council of the Protestant Episcopal Church. Their assignment was to organize and direct a training school for teachers. Ray says, "I often muse over the fact that I failed French in junior high school because I learned to speak Spanish fluently. In fact, I lectured in Spanish at college level in the Dominican Republic."

Coming back to New York in September, 1961, Ray began teaching social studies at Stowe JHS 136, where he still is. Stowe is the sister school of the one which Ray attended as a boy and he had prepared for this particular assignment by serving in Hunter's Project 120.*

As the result of his varied experiences, in the Dominican Republic and in Project

* See Professor Schueler's article on p. 4

120, Ray was appointed last year as a trainee supervisor by the Associated Community Teams—Domestic Peace Corps. He supervised a City research project in reading, organized in cooperation with the Board of Education, to help "under-achieving" pupils improve their academic performances and raise their occupational sights.

In addition to his teaching duties and his own studies, Ray is now acting as a consultant for the Community Teachers Association which is preparing a project to be conducted in the Central Harlem area. "This project is designed to assist students in the Central Harlem area in overcoming handicaps to learning implicit in segregated communities. I am very much concerned with education in communities such as Harlem and feel that all of my experiences have helped me to articulate the impact on students of life in such an area."

Asked about his future plans, Ray replied, "Eventually I intend to work in the field in which I studied, International Affairs. I have made four trips to Latin America, hope to make more and would like to teach Latin-American affairs at the college level." His career to date—he is now twenty-eight—gives promise that he will reach his goal.

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Class Notes

1888 Jessie Rosenfeld was honored by Congregation Emanu-El in New York for seventy-three years of continuous service to the congregation. Dr. Julius Mark, senior rabbi, Rabbi Nathan Perilman and Rabbi Ronald Sobel and members of the Center for Older People and the Women's Auxiliary joined in the tribute.

1900 The Class of 1900 held its sixty-third annual reunion on October 26, 1963 with an attendance of twenty-one.

1912 The Annual Tea of 1912 featured an exhibit by class members: paintings by Rose R. Chasan and Henrietta D. Antoville; chrysanthemums and ivy grown by Jean Lindsay; books on education and musical reviews by Geraldine Saltzberg sent from Tucson; poems by Jennie S. Goldsmith and Meta Schechter; needlework by Meta Schechter and Jennie B. Sackman. Agnes D. Ether led the class in song with her guitar.