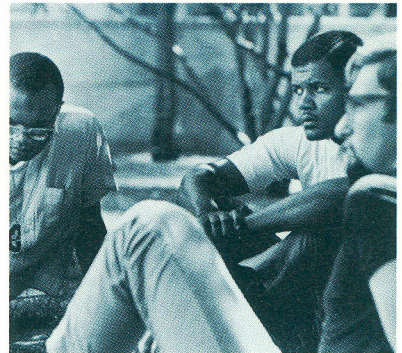


PDD Kids Go to College While Still in High School



For the past three summers, Project Double Discovery, a federally financed Upward Bound Program, has brought talented Negro, Puerto Rican, and white high school students from ghetto areas of New York City to the Columbia campus for eight weeks. Columbia students serve as counselors in the program, leading units of six kids in academic, extracurricular, and social activities.

The curriculum is as enriched as possible. Columbia faculty members give courses in "The City in Recent Literature," "Topics in Number Theory," "Rebellion, Revolution, and Social Structure," and "Contemporary Fiction of Latin America." The courses are challenging, often presented in seminar form, and expose students to college-level work. More important, students find that academic work can be exciting, and offers a great deal of immediate gratification.

But PDD is more than an academic program. Afternoons are reserved for skill sessions in anything from rocketry to architecture and film technique. Columbia's student radio station, WKCR, trains students to run the station, doing both the announcing and engineering. Evenings are for unit trips around New York. In addition, there are several weekend trips out of town. This summer, third-year Double Discovery students worked as paid tutors with the CELD program.

For the counselor, all this activity means a rigorous, demanding job. He attends classes with his unit, counsels and tutors them and leads seminars and skill sessions. More than anyone else, he is in constant contact with the kids in his unit. The close personal relationship between counselor and student is one of the most productive facets of the program. The counselor's job fills nearly twenty-four hours a day. It is an intense one, and intensely rewarding.

Enrichment courses, skill sessions, and unit trips keep counselors busy, students busier.

