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NEW COLLEGE

SARASOTA, FLORIDA 33578

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SPECIAL TO THE MIAMI HERALD

SARASOTA--Its president described New College as "an institution designed for change and growth which must itself change and grow."

New College was opened in 1964 as an innovative coeducational liberal arts and sciences college. Its first students graduated only last summer.

Eschewing such traditional college trappings as credits, grades, required attendance, weekly or term exams, New College offered students a chance to take much of the responsibility for their own education and a chance to do considerable independent study.

Such a program appealed to good students everywhere--they now come from more than 40 states and several foreign countries--and the level of student applicants permitted the college to select highly motivated members of entering classes.

Independent study is at the heart of the program. In addition to formal terms when the whole college community does independent work, small classes and seminars also encourage students to study at the pace and with a range suited to the individual.

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From his first day on campus, the New College student finds that college life is much what he makes it. The responsibility in academic life extends over into the area of social life. Student activities and organizations, while oftentimes winning faculty help, are organized by the students.

Change, under this innovative system, comes easily and as needed. During the first three years, the curriculum underwent some thorough revisions. Student government, too, reflecting the same willingness to change, has evolved gradually from a town meeting concept to a working executive committee.

Success of the program has been demonstrated rather pointedly in a number of ways. The first graduating class, while in the middle of the second year, took the Graduate Record Examination with results comparable to college seniors across the nation.

Ten graduating students won 11 of the most important fellowships in the nation including the only two Danforth Foundation Fellowships awarded in the state of Florida. Some 80 per cent of the class chose to go to graduate school. Most of these won entrance to the school of their choice, and they also won financial assistance to permit them to attend.

Members of the first graduating class are now at such schools as the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, Yale Law School, Duke University School of Medicine, Columbia, Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public Affairs, University of Chicago, University of Michigan and the University of California.