

Leisure & Life Styles

Jones reflects on life and 30 years at UNC

By Shelia Simmons
Editor

Five days a week, Clifton Jones works as supervisor of the circulation desk at Davis Library. Before working there, he worked full-time at the Health Services Library. Prior to that, he spent nine years helping with research in the bio-chemistry department.

These jobs add up to 30 years of service at the University for Clifton Jones. Now he says he's ready to retire. He gets tired of standing on his feet all day and his arthritis bothers him every now and then.

But Jones is very competent at his job. Employees bang on his office door at least every ten minutes to ask for his advice, or to get his help, as if the library would be difficult to run without him.

The 60 year old Chapel Hill native is not only an experienced worker because of the years of work he has given the University. He is a walking history book for Chapel Hill. He has seen it through growth and development and the University's administration changes, integration and its continued quest toward prestige.

"I would have liked to have finished school," says Jones, who was forced to support his wife whom he married while still in high school.

He says that during these years, he worked 15 or 16 hours a day. But Jones doesn't complain.

"I enjoyed it," he says. "I love my work."

Jones backs up Chapel Hill's liberal reputation. He says that the town took well to Chapel Hill's first black mayor and the integration of the University.

Of Chapel Hill's first black mayor, Howard Lee, who served in the late 60's to early 70's: "won by a landslide."

Jones credits Lee with the upgrading of the town's transportation and workers' salaries.

Lee also helped improve the relationship between the town and University, Jones says.

"We didn't have any real problems with blacks coming to school here," he says.

According to Jones, once the courts forced the University to let blacks in, there was no violence or anything like that."

Jones says that he still does not see any show of racism on the campus.

But he does recognize that the University does have its share of problems.

The main one that he seems to notice, he says, is the lack of communication between University employees and "the higher-ups".

"I would like to see the up-grading of the employees," he says.

According to Jones, the administration does not give employees a chance to be promoted or to offer their inputs in the running of the University.



Davis Library desk supervisor Clifton Jones. (photo by Keith Belton)

"Because of the problems, employees don't stay in the job long enough to become any good at it," he says.

When Jones is not working at the University, he works on putting together a book about his life and his family's history. His cousin, a health educator at the University, is gathering information on the family's descendants from North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia to add to the book.

Throughout his life, Jones has served as president of the American Arthritis Association for North Carolina, and as members of the Hemophilia Foundation, Psoriasis Foundation and the Easter Seal Society.

Jones' interest in medicine stretches back to the 1960s when Jones took classes in chemistry under Bernard Boyd here at

the University.

Jones was educated in the Durham City Schools. He is married and is the father of four children, all of whom live outside of the Chapel Hill area now.

Jones will be leaving the University in April to devote his time to his book. Upon leaving, he will be gathering up the memories of past experiences here. While most people who leave Chapel Hill exist with memories of four years of classes, lectures and football games, Jones will leave with the memories and knowledge of thirty years of history from this University.

He says that he has not done all in life that he had wanted to. But, he says, he has no regrets about how this life has turned out or the years of service he has given to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Students interested

in joining

the Anti-Discrimination Coalition

should call Student Government at

962-5201

Variety of activities for Discovery

Sheila Simmons
Editor

The Black Student Movement will address the issues of blacks and education, careers, politics and society, as it sponsors "Discovery 1987, A Celebration of Black History" Feb. 28 in the Frank Porter Graham Student Center.

This year's program, entitled "The Civil Rights Movement, the Past, the Present, ... Our Future," will feature a panel discussion with various leaders of the 1960's Civil Rights Movement.

Some of these leaders include James Forman, former executive secretary of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, Jamil Al-Amin, former SNCC and Black Panther member, Floyd McKissick, former head of the Congress of Racial Equality and founder of Soul City.

Through Discovery the BSM hopes to create an atmosphere that will promote general knowledge about important issues

that affect black people, said Joyce Ward, Discovery 1987 coordinator.

"We also hope to initiate interaction between black students and faculty on both predominantly black and predominantly white university and college campuses," Ward said.

Discovery was started in 1981, according to Ward, to bring together students from the different universities.

It also sought to bring black alumni back to the University campus to talk with students, she said.

Activities for Discovery are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. A cultural program and sessions on education, careers, black women, politics and racial violence will be among some of the activities scheduled for the event.

For further information, interested persons should contact the Black Student Movement in the Carolina Union or at (919) 962-8345 or (919) 933-4586.