



OutRAgeous!!! That's what it can mean to be a Resident Assistant, according to the Department of University Housing. In fact, they've chosen that dynamic adjective as their current RA recruitment theme.

For students interested in mid-year positions, applications are available now at Carr Building and are due November 7. RA Awareness Day will kick off October 26 in the Pit from 10 a.m. until noon. Current RAs and other housing officials will be on hand to answer questions — and give out free balloons. Applications for the 1989-90 academic year will be available there as well as at various informational gatherings in the residence areas. After Awareness Day, applications can be picked up at Carr Building or in area offices. Applications for the 1989-90 academic year are due no later than December 20 at 5 p.m. in Carr Building.

Being a resident assistant at UNC is a job of multi-faceted responsibilities. The peer counselors, in addition to their student advising role, are educators, ad-

ministrators, regulators of conflict, resource persons, and planners of social, cultural and educational programming for residents of college residence halls.

Upperclass standing is required of applicants, although second-semester sophomores will be considered for mid-year selection. A 2.3 grade point average is mandatory as proof of a solid academic foundation due to the demands of the job. All RAs must also be full-time students, with a minimum course load of 12 hours per semester, and should possess sensitivity, flexibility, diversity and awareness of the residence hall living environment.

RAs say that the best thing about the job is not only gaining new friends, but learning valuable insights about themselves, including increased independence, creativity, responsibility, and communication and leadership skills. And perhaps one former RA summed it up best when he said, "It's the toughest job you'll ever love."

Audrey Johnson Uses Her Education as Tool in Black Community

by Yvonne Extine

Dr. Audrey Johnson has a cause that's constantly reaffirmed. Every day the associate professor of social work at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill meets people who have much to learn about the black community.

At a recent discussion at the Columbia Street Bakery that Johnson attended, for example, a white participant said his world didn't need to know blacks.

"His statement was not one of hostility, it was one of reality," Johnson says. "I told him that was true — he may not need to know black people, but that his world is diminished by not knowing them. Fortunately, he wishes to know black people. Many people don't want that privilege."

An outspoken advocate for better health care, education and general welfare for blacks, Johnson strives to make a difference.

"My hope has been and always will be that society's respect for, acceptance of, and interaction with black people be more than superficial," she says. "I want people to know that African-Americans are competent, and that we're not here for affirmative action reasons."

That's what Johnson was pushing for in 1968 when she helped found the National Association of Black Social Workers.

"1968 was an extremely volatile time, with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the

assassination of Martin Luther King all around us," she recalls. "Black social workers were not receiving adequate recognition in their professional organizations, and the needs of black clients were not being met."

The National Association of Black Social Workers grew out of a meeting of the National Association of Social Workers in a Washington, D.C., parking garage in April 1968. Black social workers from Chicago, New York and other U.S. cities came together to fight racism, which they said was America's top mental health problem.

"It was so evident then that Civil Rights legislation and the hope everyone was talking about hadn't been acted upon in many areas," Johnson says.

Johnson has organized association chapters in Chicago, Nashville, Denver and the Triangle as well as the N.C. State Association of Black Social Workers. "Social work is a product of the society in which it operates," she says. "Maybe the chapters that I have helped to set up will promote the kind of equality social work needs."

Johnson frequently travels across the United States to speak to social workers, black advocate groups, college students, faculty members and others. She also works on special projects such as her current study about the impact of AIDS on blacks, especially women.

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