

Career Women

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later that year she was promoted to associate director and two years after that she was appointed to Nursing director.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Andrews had to face segregation when she was growing up and because of the segregation she had to look outside her community for education.

"Because of segregation, I knew I couldn't go to the colleges in my home town and I had heard about the nursing program at Tuskegee so I went there," Andrews said.

She received her baccalaureate degree at Tuskegee, the only school she could attend offering that program. She also attended Yale University, and received her master's degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"This was during the late fifties-early sixties and Carolina had already accepted a black in its medical school and in another department," Andrews said.



Gwendolyn Andrews

"This is not just a job, but a career," Gray said. "I never want to stop bettering myself, and as long as the job is lucrative I will continue to do it."

When Gray first went on the air she said she received a lot of hassles from people.

"Most of the hassles came from women," Gray said. "They would call up on the request line and tell me to get off the air."

"After they realized I was just trying to do a job the hassles stopped," Gray said. "I know I'm not the easiest person to get along with and I know the world doesn't revolve around Elaine Gray."

Gray said that another problem she has had to cope with is the image she has had to project.

"If I want to run to the store or somewhere, I can't just go with curlers in my hair or looking any kind of way."



Elaine Gray

"Someone told me not to rock the boat, but I applied and was accepted."

Andrews was the only black in her class. Although she encountered some problems, some of them racial, she did receive her degree. She later took nondegree courses at Duke University in Hospital Administration.

As director of nursing, Andrews is in charge of 1000 people both men and women. She also has an administrative staff of two associates, two assistants and 18 supervisors.

"I enjoy my work and it is a very good administrative set-up at Baptist Hospital," Andrews stated. "I have good working relations, my recommendations carry a lot of weight. I talk to a lot of people from a lot of places and I like working at a medical center type hospital."

Andrews also has the role of wife and mother. "I've always been liberated," Andrews stated. "My husband and I started out early sharing things, making



Annie Hairston

expect me to act or look a certain way."

"It's very frustrating because I'm not an outgoing person," Gray continued. "One day I was stopped, sitting in my car when some guys pulled up and said hey aren't you Elaine Gray? I'm no longer just anybody, to them I'm somebody," she said.

ANNIE HAIRSTON, principal of Diggs Elementary, describes herself as a product of the Winston-Salem public school system. She said that as long as she can remember she has wanted to be a teacher.

"I've always worked with youth groups, the girl scouts, and with younger children," Hairston said. "My goal wasn't to be a principal but to be an excellent teacher."

She has been in teaching for 20 years. She started as a teacher, then an administrative intern, later as assistant principal and then principal.

Although she finds education exciting she still finds that it has its limitations in time, planning, administration and sharing.

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Annie Kennedy

sacrifices and working together."

"I don't try to be a superwife, although at one time I tried to be all things to all people," Andrews continued. Now I give my family members a chance to help me."

Andrews said that eventually she would like to go into business for herself and have more time for personal development.

ELAINE GRAY is a staff announcer and music director at WAAA radio. She has been with the station for five years, starting out when she was 16 years of age.

"I'm thoroughly happy and I'm constantly striving to reach my goal," Gray said. "I like doing this job more, compared to any other job I've had."

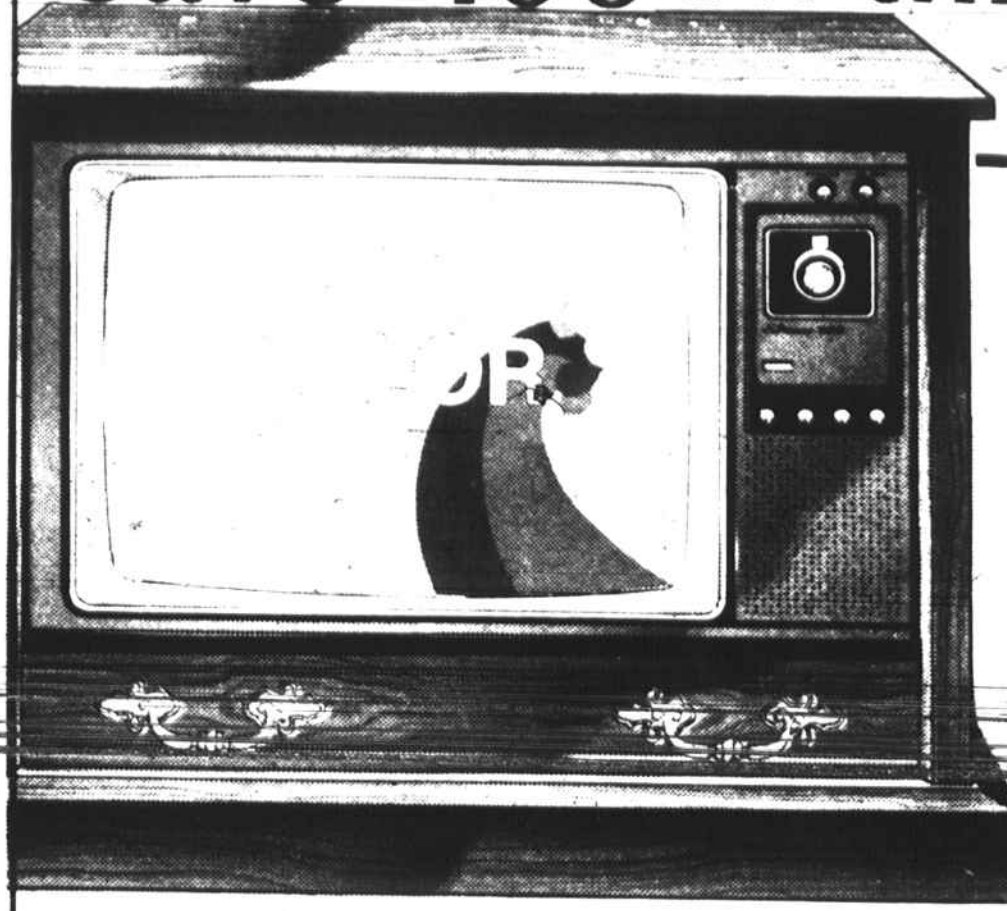
Gray said that she set her goal at 16 to be the first female radio announcer in the city. After she achieved that goal she said she looked around and said, "What next?"

She enrolled in Forsyth Technical Institute this year in Business Administration.

"I want to stay in the broadcasting industry but in the administrative end," Gray said. "I want to know as much about broadcasting as I can."

Gray said that she enjoys the freedom that her job offers her, and that she is looking ahead to the future.

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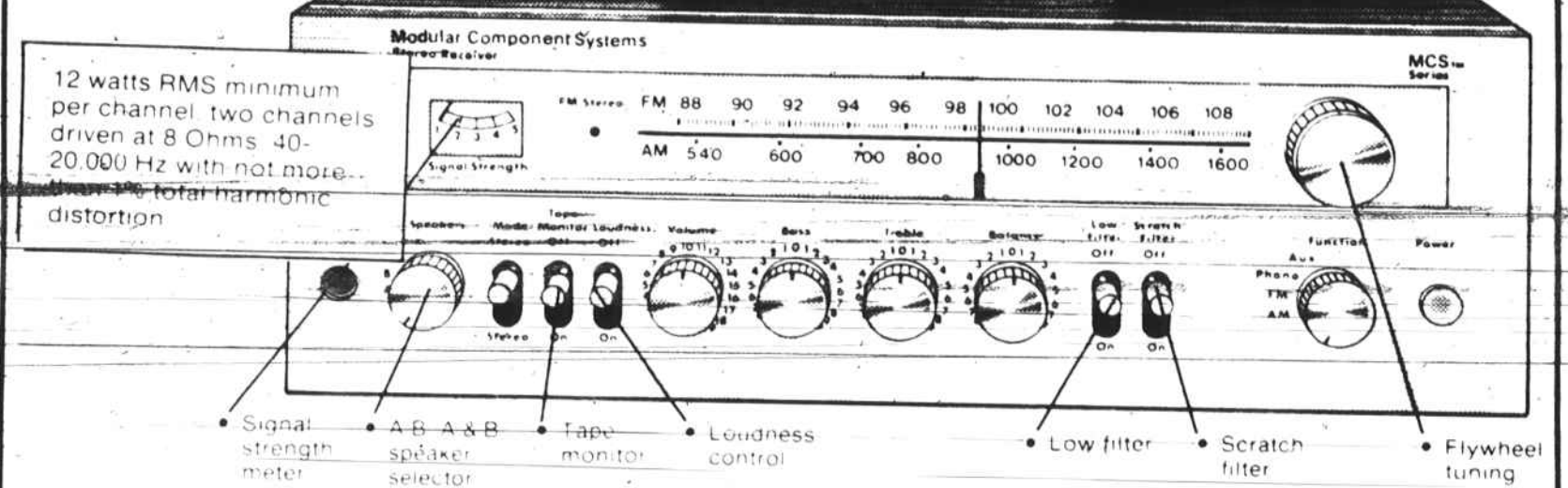
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