

## POLITICS

## Area Blacks file for various candidacies



Bob Drakeford



Reginald Smith



Harold Foster



Edith Elliott

## Runs for re-election

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Co-Editor

Incumbent Carrboro Mayor W. Robert "Bob" Drakeford has announced his candidacy for re-election as the mayor of the small predominantly-Black town adjacent to Chapel Hill.

A former UNC graduate student, Drakeford says he wants to retain his mayoral seat to continue the projects he has started.

"I've got some project that I've started that I want to see completed," said Drakeford. "I don't want to change horses in the middle of a stream."

Citing a need for increased community development, Drakeford says he also wants to bring federal funds into the town along with industrial development and more jobs.

"The folks with lower-wage jobs will have a chance to get better jobs."

Drakeford added that any potential industry coming into this area will have to be dry and environmentally safe since there is no water system in Carrboro.

A mayor's task force to deal with the area's economic development concerning downtown revitalization and industrial outreach has been formed, says Drakeford.

Drakeford says a major problem in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro area is apathy.

"Everybody likes to criticize but nobody likes to do some work."

In addition, Drakeford says the UNC Black Student Movement could be a real factor to be reckoned with in the local Black community.

"It (BSM) overlooks city politics although you're paying city taxes."

A city planner and regional analyst for the Department of Human Resources, Drakeford is a native of Scotland County and has been here in the Carrboro community since 1972.

He is a graduate of Quinnipiac College (in New England) and received his MSPH and Master's of City Planning degree from UNC-CH in 1977.

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## Incumbent Smith and Foster bid for council, mayor

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"Learn to listen — make each day a perfect one" is clearly displayed in the office of Chapel Hill Senior High School's assistant principal, Reginald D. Smith.

Smith, a 61-year-old incumbent to the town council (formerly called the Board of Aldermen) in announcing his intention to run for re-election, seeks to succeed his 14-year membership with yet another two-year term.

Smith attended Hampton Institute in Virginia, receiving a degree in Vocational Agriculture. He served during World War II in the southeast Pacific as a battalion master gunner. From 1944-46, his graduate studies at N.C. A&T, N.C. Central University and N.C. State University prepared him for versatility in teaching at Chapel Hill High School in subjects like agriculture, industrial arts and auto mechanics. In 1970 he was appointed assistant principal with the attitude that "the door to his office would never be closed."

The town council is composed of eight members and the mayor. Smith and Bill Thorpe are the only two Black members. Because of his years of service, Smith has experienced some changes with the town of Chapel Hill.

During Howard Lee's term as mayor, Smith remembers the many late-night hours they spend contemplating integration problems.

Says Smith, "I've seen that board go from one for Chapel Hill to one that is divided for Chapel Hill."

When asked if those changes have caused him to become discouraged, Smith replied by saying "If you are interested in a town you will live up to your convictions."

Some of Smith's goals on the council this term are working to develop a highway im-

provement plan, improving the effects of tax-paying on the townspeople and enlarging the bus system.

Recognizing a need to bridge the gap between the town's responsibilities and University needs, Smith is concerned with providing housing and reasonable apartment rents for off-campus students.

The father of four children, Smith and his wife live in the Northside district. However, Smith hopes that he appeals to all sectors of the population.

Smith urges all university students to vote because their vote "has meaning." He places a great deal of belief in young people.

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Harold Foster, 37, former leader of the Civil Rights Movement in Chapel Hill has announced his bid to run for the town's mayoral seat. In response to his being associated with the involvement in the movement from 1960-63, Foster says "I'm very pleased that people have seen my campaign as an extension of civil rights."

Foster, a native of Chapel Hill, is a graduate of Lincoln High and studied Public Administration at Rudkins University.

Upon leaving Chapel Hill in 1964, Foster moved to the New York-New Jersey area. Due to his mother's sickness he returned here in 1978 and maintained what he terms as a "low profile."

Since then, he has worked as fiscal assistant for the joint Orange-Chatham Community Action Committee. Last March he was elected secretary-treasurer of the predominantly-Black Northside Democratic Precinct.

Though presently unemployed, Foster says "My full-time occupation is running this campaign."

As a part-time Spanish student at UNC

night classes, Foster feels he has a lot in common with University students. He feels that up to this time young people had no political candidate with whom they could identify. Most students are not aware that legal age and a 30-day residency here makes them eligible to register to vote. He feels that because education is so expensive, city officials should acknowledge a certain responsibility to the students.

With this responsibility in mind, Foster advocates special student rates for the bus system and is concerned with what happens to low-income students seeking housing and transportation outside the boundaries of the campus itself.

Thus with a pledge to represent the poor and under-privileged minorities and students, Foster embarks on an almost penniless campaign. He says that "This segment of Chapel Hill's population is not represented in City Hall... well-to-do persons are attracted to Chapel Hill and that doesn't make for a healthy balance."

Statements like these make Foster skeptical about the support he will receive from the white middle class since he doesn't represent this sector's interests. However, he is committed to his plan and comments "Poor people feel isolated and I feel that I can bridge that gap."

Foster's political involvement, having allowed him to formulate opinions about civil rights, has acknowledged regression in some areas concerning these rights in Chapel Hill. He goes on to say "I'm unequivocally for equal opportunity and affirmative action... I don't buy the argument for reversed discrimination either."

He added "Show me someone who is not interested in civil rights and I'll show you someone who doesn't mind being a slave."

Foster anticipates the Nov. 6 political bout with optimism, saying "If I don't win I hope to have a respectable showing."

## Elliott seeks school board seat

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other university boards and committees.

A graduate of the UNC School of Social Work in 1964, Elliott has held professional positions in the past as a guidance counselor in a middle school, a pediatric

social worker at North Carolina Memorial Hospital and the coordinator for services to individuals at the Inter-Faith Council.

She joined the staff of the Campus Y in 1972 and became director in 1976, after serving one year as acting director.

For several years, Elliott has been active in local politics and is currently on the Colonial Heights Precinct Committee. She and her two sons, Balaam, 14 and David, 11, are members of Binkley Memorial Baptist Church.