



BLACK INK



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Edith Elliott

Photo by Sonja Peyton

Elliott has new job

Chuck Wallington
Staff Writer

Edith M. Elliott, recently appointed assistant vice chancellor for student affairs, is by no means a new face on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus. Elliott first came to UNC-CH in 1962 as a graduate student in social work.

Between 1962 and 1969, she lived in the Chapel Hill area, only to move to the Philippines for two years. Upon her return to Chapel Hill in 1972, she was hired as one of the associates at the Campus YMCA-YWCA. From here, she advanced her way up to her former position as its director.

Elliott assumed her new responsibilities on August 1. She said that she is enjoying her new job. "It's very exciting," said Elliott. "I'm doing many of the same things that I did as the Campus Y director, but on a much larger scale."

Elliott said that even though her new job affords her less personal contact with the students, the end result of her work will have a greater impact on a much larger number of students than before.

As far as any major changes in the way her work is conducted, Elliott said that she does not foresee any major changes coming from her office. However, she wants to create "everywhere, for all students, whether they are black, white, national or international, the feeling that this is their campus and that

they can develop into the types of people that they want to be."

Along with her responsibilities to the university students, Elliott is also the mother of two sons — David, age 13 and Balaam, age 16. She is also very active in the community, where she serves as a member of the Chapel Hill-Carrboro Board of Education. Elliott said that her sons appreciate her active community involvement and are willing to make personal sacrifices so that she can continue this involvement.

Elliott's other outside interest include fishing, which she describes as being "very relaxing," teaching herself to play the piano, and reading.

Acting Campus Y Director Jim L. Smalley Jr., a former colleague of Elliott's, said that he "had a good working relationship with Mrs. Elliott." Smalley quickly added that, "I wish her the best in her new position."

Vice Chancellor Harold Wallace, former Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, said that his association with Elliott began in 1973 while she was serving as an "unofficial advisor to the BSM." Wallace said that because of her dedicated involvement during this time with the BSM, "she was especially helpful to black females as a role model for them." Wallace went on to say he has the highest personal and professional regard for her. "I think she'll do well," Wallace said.

Black officials stress legislation still needed

Lawrence Turner
Managing Editor

Carrboro Mayor Robert Drakeford said the Voting Rights Acts was essential to his election as mayor and helped other black politicians become elected nationwide.

"It helped me and 3,000 (other) black officials (across the country) get elected," he said. Without the civil rights legislation, he estimated a reduction of elected public black officials to 10 percent.

Drakeford runs for his third term as mayor this November.

The Voting Rights Act, which struck down voter requirements that hindered black voter registration, faces debate over its extension in Congress this fall. The legislation, approved in Congress in 1965, was renewed in 1970 and 1975.

Also, the law required six Southern states, including some counties of North Carolina, to check with the Justice Department before making any changes in their election laws.

When the legislation was renewed in the past, it was under Republican administrations but Congress was dominated by Democrats, said Fred Lee, a black assistant professor of political science at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Since the Senate is dominated by Republicans, and there is a Republican administration, renewing the act would be "a little harder this time around," he said.

"Publicly, (Presidents) Nixon and Ford gave lip service to it," Lee said. They didn't fight the legislation.

"It's one of a few pieces of legislation (during the Johnson administration) that has

worked," Lee said. "Clearly it has worked — its success, I believe, that has made some people uncomfortable." White politicians have to be more responsible to black voters, so, that could make them uneasy, he said.

Slightly less than half of the state's eligible blacks are registered voters. But since the voting Rights Act was passed, the number of black voters doubled from about 258,000 in 1964 to 440,000 as reported by the Raleigh News and Observer.

Without the act, any claims of denial concerning access to voting polls or voter registration is harder to prove, said Moses Carey, last year's chairman of the South Orange Black Caucus. Although such a fight can be taken up to the Supreme Court, "Who has the time? Few people who need access to the ballot can afford that," he said.

But two black elected public officials feel the law will be renewed.

"I think it will be renewed. It may be a little watered down but it'll pass," Drakeford said. A candidate in the Nov. 3 elections in Carrboro, Drakeford is one of 13 black mayors in the state.

In 1969, neighboring Chapel Hill elected Howard Lee as the first black mayor of a Southern city since Reconstruction. He served three terms from 1969 to 1975.

Harry Frye, the only black state senator and a Greensboro attorney, said "I think they are going to extend it after all the fuss — quite a bit as it is now. I think it would be appropriate."

But Jesse Helms, R-NC, doesn't want to support the act in its present form, and Strom Thurmond, R-SC, is leading the Congressional fight to abolish it.

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