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Ms. Hollins

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PHYLLIS WALLS

...University of North Carolina senior

Walls Plans To "Branch Out And Be Prepared When Opportunities Arise"

By Jalyne Strong
Post Staff Writer

Phyllis Walls, a rising senior at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, majors in business administration with a concentration of courses in computer science, marketing and organizational behavior. This diversity, Phyllis says, "builds my character. And, it's also so I won't have tunnel vision," she further explains. "I'll be able to branch out and be prepared when different opportunities arise."

It all amounts to the fact that 20-year-old Phyllis plans to be "a successful black woman."

Currently still a student, Phyllis works summers as secretary for the law firm of Erdman, Boggs and Harkins in Charlotte. Harkins has a law firm in Chapel Hill also, and Phyllis is employed there while attending school.

She enjoys her job, but Phyllis assures, "I don't want to be a secretary. I don't want to get tied down to one thing that's monotonous."

Her preference for variety is fulfilled at Chapel Hill where, she describes, "The university is very diverse with many outlets: academically, socially and athletically."

Very knowledgeable about Chapel Hill, Phyllis is a "Sweet Caroline"; a select student who acts as hostess for the school when student recruits and their parents visit the campus.

Apparently, a sports enthusiast, Phyllis enjoys jogging and "I'm very much into basketball," she tells. She's also looking forward to her brother teaching her to drive a straight drive this summer.

Phyllis likes meeting people and she likes to dance and she loves the music of Luther Vandross because: "He touches all the ladies' hearts," she maintains.

People who touch Phyllis' heart are her parents, Flemming and Barbara Walls. "They've been pa-

tient with me because I'm the youngest with a tendency to be spoiled," Phyllis confesses.

With one sister, Angela, and two brothers, Flemming O'Brien and Andrew, this week's beauty says, "We do things together, like taking vacations together. We're a tightly knit family. My mom and dad did good."

Phyllis describes her parents as "the bridge" or support of her family. And special praise goes to her father. "He's worked hard for his children to have everything he didn't have and more," she points out.

Another influential person in Phyllis' life is Ms. Eunice Pharr, a teacher at West Charlotte Senior High. "She's an inspiration," Phyllis states. "She taught me to set goals and to try to achieve them and don't give up."

"I'm determined, energetic, and

stubborn," Phyllis gives as a self-description. "And I possess an optimistic attitude and I think positively."

Furthermore, Phyllis says, she has learned to "think first." "That's the most important thing I've learned," admits Phyllis. "To think first, because I'm outspoken. I have to remember to think before I speak, act or make any decision."

One thing Phyllis gives some thought to these days is how there needs to be more understanding between people. "There needs to be more negotiating with a positive mind," she explains. That way, Phyllis concluded, a happy medium can always be found.

This attractive young lady attends the United House of Prayer For All People on Beatties Ford Rd., where everyone in her family is very active.

Suttles Explains What County Managers Do

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

Since February, Sherry Suttles has been Mecklenburg's Assistant County Manager for Administration. She comes to Charlotte with a wealth of experience from positions in California and Ohio.

What does an assistant county manager do? Suttles is one of three assistant managers. Her realm of responsibility includes 13 departments. She acts as liaison between each department and the Board of County Commissioners, helping each get needed resources and answering to County Manager Gerald G. Fox.

What made Suttles decide to leave her job in Cleveland, Ohio, where she was director of government relations for the United Way? "I was recruited for the position," she explains. "I was attracted to the community here. The whole state of North Carolina has interested me from a professional point of view. It has a reputation for good city and county government. It's one of the few states in the country with lots of city and county managers," as opposed to other forms of government, she continues.

As an undergraduate at Barnard College, Columbia University, Suttles charted her career course. "I decided on a local government career because that's where the action is. You're more in touch with the people you're trying to serve than in higher levels of government," she remarks. After graduate school (she has a masters from the University of Michigan), she was recruited by the International City Management Association.

Management exposes Suttles to many different areas, which satisfies her need for variety. In addition, city-county management differs from political office. "There's a big difference in my mind," Suttles notes. "I didn't aspire to run for office. I see myself behind the scenes, helping elected officials accomplish what they want to accomplish."



Sherry Suttles
Assistant County Manager

This approach to government is not tied to elections, and although those in positions such as Suttles' serve "at the pleasure of" the Board of Commissioners, "Charlotte-Mecklenburg is particularly good about not turning over management" when elections bring a change in power, she comments.

In her job, "there is no typical day," says Suttles. One of her assignments is economic development for the county. Although Charlotte has been working on it, the county is just beginning to get involved, the assistant manager states. "I would like to get the

county well-grounded in economic development," she comments about her endeavors in this area.

She also serves as a hearing examiner when county employees file personnel appeals. She plans for board meetings, resolves problems that arise, attends meetings, and makes site visits to the various departments under her jurisdiction.

Suttles is gung-ho about her chosen profession. "I'm a big proponent of this profession for women and minorities," she claims, but warns, "It's a very competitive field. I encourage people to look into See SUTTLES On Page 4A

Cyndee Patterson Announces For City Council

By Audrey C. Lodato
Post Staff Writer

If the name Cyndee Patterson sounds vaguely familiar but you're not sure why, rest assured you'll get to know her a whole lot better in the weeks to come. Patterson, co-founder of SpringFest, campaign worker for Gantt and Knox, and member or officer of many of Charlotte's civic organizations, has just announced her candidacy for City Council.

Running as a Democrat, Patterson explains what she perceives as a great need for the city. "Over the next four to six years, we're going to have to make many decisions that will have long-term impact. We've got to be looking way out, to be visionary in designing a plan with short-term, specific goals, but which will fit into long-range goals."

She believes that tough decisions will require bold leadership. Describing the present Council leadership as "conscientious, knowledgeable, and struggling with some tough problems," Patterson would like to see Council members working together to educate the public about the various issues confronting the city. "We're very blessed in Charlotte to have involved citizens and neighborhood organizations," she comments. "If given enough information, citizens will help you make the decisions."

A Charlottean since 1977, the Council candidate has a real interest in where Charlotte is going. "It's become my home," she remarks. "I've put a lot into the city. I want to be more involved in Charlotte's direction for the future."

Although she's never run for office herself—even in school—Patterson is



Cyndee G. Patterson
City Council candidate

not new to politics. She worked actively in the Knox and Gantt campaigns in recent years. Her present strategy is "to literally touch as many people as I can." Her campaign workers are new to the political process and "their level of enthusiasm is high."

A resident of Fourth Ward, Patterson is director of marketing for Jenkins-Peer Architects. "My job is to sell them," she explains. "I put their name in front of municipalities, developers, corporate clients. It's a real challenge." Previous employment has been as special events director for Belk Store Services, investment officer for funds management at NCNB, and stock broker for J.C. Bradford.

In 1981, Patterson began working with Koni Findlay to start Spring

Fest. The original idea was to have a sidewalk arts and crafts show like both women had seen in other cities. Patterson is presently Springfest's chairman of the board.

She is also president-elect of Friends of Fourth Ward, executive vice president for Planned Parenthood, vice chairman for the Citizens' Advisory Council to the Charlotte Convention-Tourism Bureau, member of Friends of the Opera, Women's Political Caucus, and Young Democrats, and past member of the Spirit Square Auxiliary and the Citizens' Advisory Council for the Tryon Street Mall.

This experience and background would be invaluable as a Council member, she believes. "Because of my business background and my ability as demonstrated through Springfest, I can bring different people together toward a common goal of 'what's best for Charlotte.' The economic implications of that are so positive for the city. I want Charlotte to grow with a plan."

Patterson attributes her success in past endeavors to the fact that "I really like people, and I have lots of people who care about me and whom I care about—and that shows." She thinks that creative problem-solving "is really the thing I do best."

Although some have asked why she doesn't run as a Republican, Patterson is a firm believer in the Democratic Party. "We have a history and a continuing concern for individual rights, fairness in government, and equality for all people, and we have a track record," she asserts. "If the Republicans have those qualities, they're just developing them and have no track

record."

She describes herself as fiscally conservative and likes the idea that local money remains locally rather than returning by way of Washington. She adds, "In our community, we have the best opportunity to make a difference in people's lives."

What would the Council hopeful like to be remembered for years

Duke Study Looks At Influence Of Family Stress On Health

By Charles Blackburn
Duke Medical Center
Special To The Post

Durham - A man with high blood pressure is told by his doctor to lose weight, but his children think his diet cruel and sneak him cheeseburgers and pizza.

When he visits his mother for Sunday dinner, he cannot bear to see the wounded look that will certainly appear in her eyes if he refuses a piece of the coconut cake she baked especially for him.

In planning meals, his wife is very supportive of his diet, but when he begins jogging in the evening to burn calories, she accuses him of becoming a "health nut."

These are examples of a factor in the scheme of health care that is something of an unknown - the influence of family stress. A new study at Duke University Medical Center is aimed at evaluating that influence.

"We suspect that family stress is an important factor in a wide range of medical problems, but it has been

difficult to define its effect," according to Dr. George R. Parkerson Jr., associate professor and acting chairman of community and family medicine.

"People can probably cope with illness better and will tend to be more compliant with medical management if they are at ease in their family or social environment," he said. "In our study, we hope to quantify the effect of stress, to assign numerical values to certain facets of family life, and see how they add up in relation to health."

Parkerson and his colleagues have received a \$149,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for the two and a half year study, which will involve 240 adult patients.

"We hope to be able to identify factors that will predict problems and patients who are most likely to benefit from intervention to reduce family stress," he said.

In addition to a routine medical history, the patients in the study will be asked to complete four short questionnaires.

TURTLE-TALK



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