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Floyd makes decision to stay in Chapel Hill

BY BEN BRAZIL
STAFF WRITER

Executive Vice Chancellor Elson Floyd removed his name from consideration for a University of Kentucky-system post Friday, saying he had too much left to accomplish at UNC.

Floyd was a candidate for president of a new coordination board within the Kentucky system.

In an April 3 letter to the Kentucky search committee, Floyd cited personal and professional reasons for his decision.

"(Chancellor Michael Hooker) and I really have a full agenda," Floyd said Sunday. "It just seemed appropriate to withdraw my name."

Leonard Hardin, chairman of the Kentucky search committee, said he was not aware Floyd had removed his name. "He has not officially withdrawn from our standpoint," Hardin said.

Floyd said he wanted to finish working on the Carolina Computing Initiative. The CCI require all incoming freshmen to have a laptop by 2000.

Officials at the University of Kentucky system had narrowed their search for the president of a new coordination board to Floyd and one other candidate.

Floyd, who has earned three degrees from UNC-Chapel Hill and has worked in the UNC system for 14 years, said he also had personal ties to the area.

"This is home for me," he said. "My folks live an hour from here."

Floyd said he was committed to UNC and had no immediate plans to leave. "Right now, I don't know of a situation that's going to present itself that would cause me to leave the University."

Chancellor Michael Hooker said Floyd's decision pleased him. "I didn't think this was the job for Elson. I think he's bigger than the Kentucky job."

Hooker said Floyd would have had a coordinating job that isolated him from hands-on work at campuses.

"(The Kentucky post) wouldn't have had the scope or the responsibility that, say, the chancellor of the University of Kentucky would have," Hooker added.

But Hooker also said it was only fair to expect Floyd to leave the University if the right job presented itself.

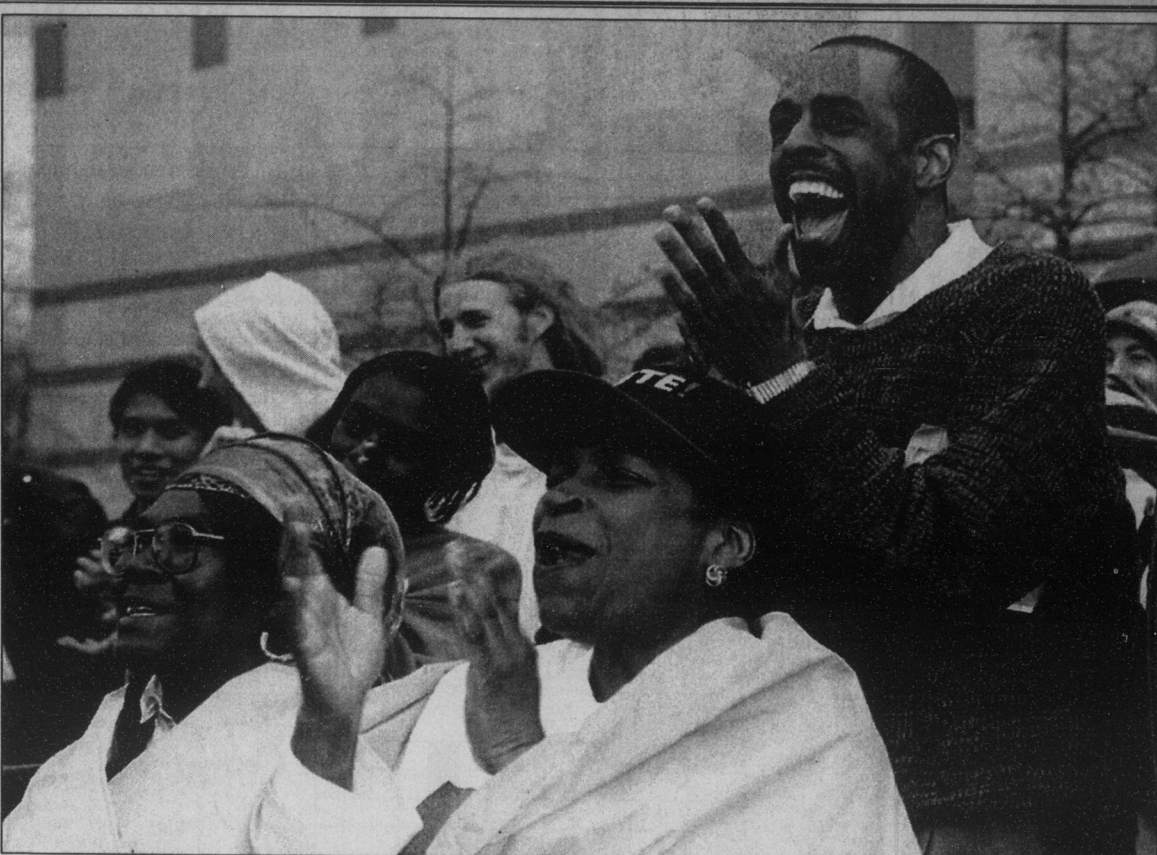
On Saturday, Floyd received the C. Knox Massey Distinguished Service Award. The award honors outstanding contributions by University employees.

Hooker called Floyd his right-hand man. "I don't know that I've ever worked with anyone that I enjoyed working with or felt closer to than I do Elson."

Hooker said he and Floyd's working relationship changed daily. "Our relationship is like two people who perform a dance together where you forget the steps and just respond to the music."



Executive Vice Chancellor **ELSON FLOYD** said he was still committed to UNC and had no immediate plans to leave.



K-Mart Workers Unite member Deborah Compton-Holt of Greensboro cheers on a speaker at a rally in Raleigh on Saturday afternoon. The rally was in honor of the 30th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination as well as a plea to Gov. Jim Hunt to release Kwame Cannon from prison.

REVIVING THE LEGACY

RALEIGH — Exactly 30 years after the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., protesters took to the streets in Raleigh on Saturday with a dream of their very own.

Nearly 800 people gathered in a fight to free Kwame Cannon, who was

sentenced to two life terms for first degree robbery in 1986.

"Whenever something like this is going on and a man who has basically committed petty burglary and gets two

hopes of persuading Gov. Jim Hunt to reduce her son's prison sentence.

"This support will help my son get free, but the exciting thing about this is that it's pulling the movement together."

BY VICKY ECKENRODE
STATE & NATIONAL EDITOR



A homeless man from Greensboro prayed Friday after marching through Durham in Kwame Cannon's honor.

life sentences, that's something to raise the roof," said Kevin Walker, vice president-elect for external affairs at N.C. Agricultural & Technical University.

"That's why we got a delegation together — not only to show support of Kwame Cannon but to show support of the (black) community."

The rally was largely organized by the April 4th Survival Coalition, which Willena Cannon, Kwame Cannon's mother, established in the

— not only to free Kwame, but a lot of other Kwames and a lot of other ills in our society," Willena Cannon predicted, as she beamed across the crowd that had swarmed the Legislative Building.

Lisa Ray, a member of the coalition, said the rally represented a larger issue than one man's fate. "The main reason I'm here is to take action myself instead of just talking about the injustices that go on," Ray said. "I'm here in support of the movement."

For many speakers, Kwame Cannon had become an icon of various issues the black community faced. "We're here for Kwame Cannon. Kwame Cannon — a symbol of the injustice

that we as blacks face in the criminal justice system," Ingram said.

"These are our problems; these are our struggles."

"Students are here because we have acknowledged the struggle that is ours to continue on — the younger generation continuing the struggle, continuing the dream and recognizing that we have to address social justices," Ingram said.

Whether the weeklong march that started in Greensboro and ended in the capital city succeeds in helping Cannon's cause or maintaining civil right activism across the state remains to be seen. But many supporters said they were optimistic in the message that Saturday's rally sent.

"I think (Hunt) will hear, and Kwame Cannon's sentence will be somewhat rectified," said Manuel Stancil, an elder at the Providence

SEE RALLY, PAGE 2

AIN'T GOIN' DOWN 'TIL THE SUN COMES UP



Country music singer Garth Brooks plays his hit tune "Rodeo" for a wild crowd Friday night at the Smith Center. See review, Page 4.

Redistricting could force primary delay

■ A three-judge panel ruled the 12th District was still unconstitutional.

BY DAN O'BRIEN
STAFF WRITER

The General Assembly received the burden of redrawing North Carolina's 12th Congressional District once again after a federal court declared the lines unconstitutional Friday.

A 1996 Supreme Court ruling declared districts created along racial lines unconstitutional.

That meant that North Carolina's 12th District, which snaked from Durham to Charlotte, was unconstitutional.

Last spring, legislators redrew the congressional districts, making the 12th

Redistricting required before primaries

A federal judge ruled that the 12th Congressional District is unconstitutional because race was the primary factor in its design. The 12th District connects black communities along Interstate 85 from Charlotte to Greensboro.



DTH/STAFF

District more geographically compact. A three-judge panel approved the new plan last August.

But the attorney who filed the original suit, Duke University law Professor Robinson Everett, sued again, contending that the new 12th District still used race as a main factor.

On Friday, a second three-judge panel ruled in Everett's favor.

Rep. Dewey Hill, D-Columbus, said he was worried about the timing of the decision.

"I'm a little concerned that the judges did what they did right before the primary," Hill said. "The General Assembly will be drawing a new district in less than two years anyway because of the 2000 census."

Congressional primaries, currently

scheduled for May 5, will probably be postponed until September in light of the recent ruling, officials have speculated.

"We (the House) had worked hard with the Senate and thought the plan was agreeable," Hill said. "It was agreeable to the court then."

Mike Easley, N.C. attorney general, said he planned to appeal the court's ruling to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Provided Friday's ruling stands, the General Assembly, already meeting in special session to hammer out a child health care agreement, will have the politically delicate task of redrawing the 12th district to meet constitutional requirements.

SEE REDISTRICTING, PAGE 2

Durhams nabs DTH editorship

BY LEIGH DAVIS
STAFF WRITER

A committee selected Sharif Durhams on Saturday to lead The Daily Tar Heel through its 105th year.

Durhams, a junior journalism and mass communication and political science major from Raleigh, will be the newspaper's 132nd editor and the first black student to hold the post.

"I'm definitely excited and ready to go to work today," said Durhams, who received the call informing him of his selection on a cellular phone while attending a meeting.

"It's all kind of surreal. I think me being the first black editor shows there are many open-minded people here," he said.

"This is definitely a milestone. It reflects the atmosphere of the paper." Durhams said he would be busy getting the paper ready for the 1998-99 year. His first act as editor will be to select a staff and devise a system of writers.

He wants to begin implementing the concepts from his platform, which included more extensive training for reporters and editors.

Durhams currently serves as university desk editor.

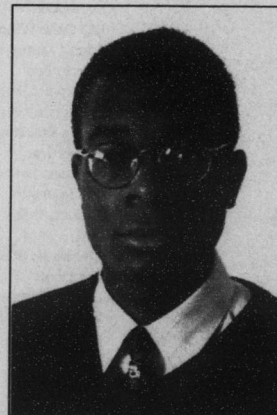
"Sharif will make an excellent editor. He's taught me more about

newswriting than any class could," said Andrew Meehan, a junior journalism and mass communication major from Raleigh and a university desk reporter for the DTH.

"He's demanding, but his demanding attitude forces you to make your story better and dig deeper," Meehan said.

DTH Managing Editor Leslie

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Sharif Durhams

INSIDE

How much do we care?

At a university known for its activism, do UNC students still devote time and energy to the causes they believe in? Page 11



A flair for the arts

Carboro's newly christened arts fair proves arts and crafts aren't just for your grandma anymore. Page 5

Today's weather

Mostly sunny;
mid 60s
Tuesday: Partly sunny;
high 60s

Get involved

If you're interested in making a mark on the University community, apply to be a desk editor for the 1998-99 Daily Tar Heel. Contact Editor-select Sharif Durhams at 962-0245 with questions.

Injustice never rules forever.

Seneca