

# PBS correspondent speaks on women in broadcasting

By DEVI SEN  
Staff Writer

Percentages of women and minorities working in broadcast journalism have not greatly changed in the past decade. Judy Woodruff, chief Washington correspondent for the "MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour", told about 250 people Thursday afternoon in Swain Hall.

Woodruff said she believed the Public Broadcasting Service had a better record for hiring women and minorities than network broadcasting.

The percentage of women in broadcast journalism was at 20 percent when she entered the media business more than 11 years ago, Woodruff said. Although there are more women and minorities in the business now, the overall percentage has not increased, she said.

"That 20 percent has not changed; I find that discouraging," she said. "I had hoped the emphasis would continue on hiring women as well as hiring minorities."

The Federal Communications Commission pressured stations across the country to hire women and minorities in the early 1970s, Woodruff said.

"It was an enticing time to go into journalism," because of world events happening at that time and the push from the federal government, she said.

"We still have a long way to go... right now there are no woman producers of nightly news programs and there's no woman president of a major network, although there is a woman vice president," she said.

In today's broadcast journalism, the age of a woman reporter or news anchor has become an issue, but women broadcasters will not be easily killed off, she said.

"I can see myself stopping on-camera work in about 35 years," she said, "but I don't intend to go away quietly."

The Duke graduate said she would never have traded her eight and one-half years at NBC, covering stories such as the Joann Little trial, the 1976 presidential election and Carter administration, for anything else. However, "it was very frustrating to put a lot of work into a minute and 15 seconds of air-time," Woodruff said.

"What's different about the NewsHour is we're able to do in-depth reporting," she said.

The program spends anywhere between 12 and 15 minutes on the air with any given story, she said.

"In MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour, the first seven to eight minutes is just a news summary... then the major stories run up to 15 minutes apiece," she said. "The whole idea is to take news seriously without taking ourselves seriously."

Woodruff said there was a growing minority in the American public turning to PBS for more comprehensive and responsible news.

The MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour provides a variety of stories, she said. The reporters for MacNeil/Lehrer NewsHour make issues interesting by taking both sides of the issue at hand and getting people to talk about it on the air.

Woodruff said though there was no more pressure from the present administration, there was competition between the major networks to find ways for women viewers to identify with the anchors and reporters.

"The competition is only positive," she said. "The networks are better because they have each other to compete with."

"I think the appetite for TV news is growing... our audience tends to be opinion leaders, better educated with better incomes; a higher caliber audience."

Woodruff said she would not have changed her major from political science if she had to do everything again.

"No college degree will prepare you for everything in life," she said.

## Election polling sites

Following is a list of the Chapel Hill and Carrboro polling sites for Tuesday's local elections. Polls will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

- Battle Park — Chapel Hill Community Center, Plant Road, Chapel Hill
- Coker Hills — Church of Reconciliation, 110 Elliott Road, Chapel Hill
- Cole's Store — Union Grove Methodist Church, Chapel Hill
- Colonial Heights — YMCA, 980 Airport Road, Chapel Hill
- Country Club — Fetzer Gym, South Road, UNC
- Dogwood Acres — Grey Culbreath School, Culbreath Drive, Chapel Hill
- East Franklin — Lutheran Church, 300 E. Rosemary St., Chapel Hill
- Eastside — Ephesus Road School, Ephesus Church Road, Chapel Hill
- Estes Hills — Guy B. Phillips School, Estes Drive, Chapel Hill
- Glenwood — Glenwood School, Prestwick Road, Chapel Hill
- Greenwood — General Administration Building, South Road, Chapel Hill
- King's Mill — Aldersgate Methodist Church, 632 Laurel Hills Road, Chapel Hill
- Lincoln — Lincoln School, Merritt Mill Road, Chapel Hill
- Lions Club — Lions Club, 131 Fidelity St., Carrboro
- Mason Farm — Community Church Building, Purefoy Road, Chapel Hill
- North Carrboro — Carrboro Elementary School, Shelton Street, Carrboro
- Northside — Chapel Hill Municipal Building, 306 N. Columbia St., Chapel Hill
- Orange Grove — Orange Grove Fire Station, Orange Grove Road, Chapel Hill
- OWASA — OWASA Filter Plant, Jones Ferry Road, Carrboro
- Patterson — New Hope Community Center, Whitfield Road, Chapel Hill
- Ridgefield — Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive, Chapel Hill
- St. John — St. John Church, off Hatch Road, Chapel Hill
- Town Hall — Carrboro Town Hall, W. Main Street, Carrboro
- Weaver Dairy — New Fire Station, Weaver Dairy Road and N.C. 86, Chapel Hill
- Westwood — Frank Porter Graham School, N.C. 54 Bypass, Chapel Hill
- White Cross — White Cross Recreational Center, Antioch Church Road, Chapel Hill

## Troops threaten U.S. Embassy

From wire reports

SHANNON, Ireland — Afghan troops have encircled the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, cutting off electricity and using searchlights in an effort to force U.S. diplomats to turn over a Soviet soldier who entered the embassy Thursday, Secretary of State George P. Schultz said.

The Soviet guard apparently darted through the gate of the embassy when it was opened to let someone out. Schultz said the soldier seems to want to return to the Soviet Union instead of serve in Afghanistan.

### Reagan backs CIA plan

WASHINGTON — A Central Intelligence Agency covert operation designed to undermine the Libyan regime of Col. Moammar Khadafy has been authorized by President Reagan, government sources say. The plan has run into some

## news in brief

resistance from the House and Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, which oversee the CIA, but narrow majorities in both panels so far support the plan, the sources said.

**South Africa restricts journalists**  
JOHANNESBURG — The South African government has imposed restrictions on both local and foreign journalists, barring reporters and photographers as well as television crews from covering unrest in areas affected by an emergency decree.

Journalists guilty of defying the restrictions could face a 10-year jail sentence and/or a maximum fine of about \$8,000. Reporters would have to report to local police and obey police instructions when covering areas of unrest, government officials said.

## Several groups endorsing candidates in local races

By KATHERINE WOOD  
and LORETTA GRANTHAM  
Staff Writers

As local election day for Chapel Hill and Carrboro approaches, area organizations express their views on the candidates.

The Orange County Rainbow Coalition of Conscience surveyed the candidates on several issues and then released endorsements.

Wes Hare received OCRCC's endorsement for Chapel Hill Mayor, while Joe Herzenberg, Julie Andresen, Roosevelt Wilkerson and David Godschalk were endorsed as Chapel Hill Town Council candidates.

Hilliard Caldwell, Judith Wegner and Steve Oglesbee are OCRCC's endorsees for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen.

In a news release, OCRCC said it endorsed candidates on the following terms: a sensitivity to the needs of the grassroots, including support for low and moderate income housing; divestment of local funds from companies doing business in South Africa; better wages and working conditions for employees; willingness to contract out work to women and minority businesses; and the needs of the elderly, the homeless and unemployed youth.

The release also said that the Carrboro Board of Aldermen candidates must support Martin Luther King's birthday as a holiday to receive OCRCC's endorsement.

The OCRCC questionnaire asked candidates if they would vote for or against an anti-apartheid resolution. All of the endorsed candidates supported the resolution.

Although the Research Triangle Group of the Sierra Club, another local

group, cannot formally endorse area candidates, the club surveyed the candidates to determine their stands on environmental issues.

The club's questionnaire addressed open space, greenways, parks, town growth, transportation, bikeways, a tree ordinance, recycling and public transportation.

Randy Schenck, chairman of the local Sierra Club, said in a news release that the Chapel Hill Town Council candidates "expressing the most consistent support for environmental issues were Julie Andresen, Joe Herzenberg, Tom McCurdy, David Pasquini and Art Werner."

The club's release also said that mayoral candidates Wes Hare, Beverly Kawalec and Jim Wallace supported a bond referendum to implement the greenways system.

According to the release, Hare, Kawalec and Wallace also support "limiting the pace of growth, protecting Mason Farm, establishing a bikeways task force, adopting a tree ordinance, strictly limiting building on the flood plain, involving the town in recycling, and increasing public participation in decision making."

The East Franklin Democrats, a group representing democrats in the East Franklin precinct, endorsed mayoral candidate Beverly Kawalec. The group, according to a press release, based its decision on Kawalec's accessibility to numerous population groups. The South Orange Black Caucus also endorsed Kawalec.

Joe Herzenberg, Roosevelt Wilkerson and David Godschalk received the East Franklin Democrats' endorsement for Chapel Hill Town Council.

## Fraternity caretaker dies

Clarence Merritt Sr., caretaker of Chi Psi fraternity for 32 years, died Thursday of cancer. He was 73.

A lifetime Chapel Hill resident, Merritt was active in the community and worked in the Department of Psychiatry for 24 years before his retirement in 1977.

Chris Kline, Chi Psi president,

described Merritt as a diligent worker who was extremely popular in the fraternity. Merritt was an honorary member of Chi Psi.

"He'd become as much a part of this place as the building itself," Kline said.

Survivors include Merritt's wife, Effie N. Merritt; two daughters, Shirley M. Bradshaw and Angela M. Belk, both of Durham; two sons, Clarence Merritt Jr. of Chapel Hill and James E. Merritt of Hampton, Va.; a brother, Henry Merritt of Martinsburg, W. Va.; three sisters, Ruth V. Jones, Louise Durham and Coy M. Hargraves, all of Chapel Hill; and six grandchildren.

— GUY LUCAS

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