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By Vegal Parich



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Staff Photo by Craig Andresen

Dolores Simpson-Kirkland

Student counselor is liaison between students and staff

By Vicki Ruhga

Dolores Simpson-Kirkland manages to combine family responsibilities, education, full-time work in the Division of Student Life Office and concerns about her black heritage.

In the Division of Student Life Office, her responsibilities are to work with ASUN and the University Judicial Boards.

"As an administrator to ASUN, I see my role as a liaison between students and the administration," she said. "It is impor-

tant to work with students and help them cultivate their ideas and make decisions."

However, Simpson-Kirkland is careful not to dictate to students or force her ideas on them, she said. "Part of the education process is learning for oneself," she said. "I do offer my support for students."

Her Judicial Board responsibilities are primarily with students who do not live on campus. Residence halls and Greek houses have their own judicial boards, she said. She receives information from police reports and then talks with the student to determine what happened and what the student's rights are.

"When students are in trouble, they sometimes get the feeling that everybody's against them," she said. "I try to make the best of an unpleasant situation."

More serious student problems are heard by the judicial board, which Simpson-Kirkland advises. She also is responsible for the Judicial Appeals Board, which reconsiders decisions made by the judicial board. Both are composed of student and faculty members.

She also is responsible for the Mentor Project, where students and faculty members form relationships with one another.

She said she hopes to complete her studies for a doctorate in psychological and cultural studies by May 1983. A native New Yorker from the South Bronx, Simpson-Kirkland came to Nebraska in 1975 with the purpose of doing graduate work at UNL because its education psychology department is one of the few in the country that is approved by the American Psychological Association, she said.

"A big factor in coming to Nebraska was the fact that I personally needed to get away and find out who I was and where I was going," she said. "However, I did have plans to finish my master's in three years and move back to New York."

Her plans changed when she got married and started a family. She and her husband have a 3-year-old daughter, and she now has no plans to move back to New York.

"Even though I'm really busy, my family is very important to me," she said. "It is a release from the pressures of my job and school."

In addition to her family, she has a very active spiritual life. She plays the piano for the children's choir at her church and is also an usher.

She also participates in Black Student Orientation, and on Feb. 18 and 19, she will give a speech about professional black women at the Big Eight Conference of Black Student Government, which will be at UNL.

It is important for her to try and plan things although she is not a good planner, she said.

"I try and set daily and long-term goals which will help me to keep going," she said. "I don't sleep very much, and I often take work home with me."

Simpson-Kirkland has a 24-hour-a-day job, she said, and she often is called upon if the UNL dean of students is busy. Because of this, she tries to make the most of Friday evenings by spending time with her family and turning in early.

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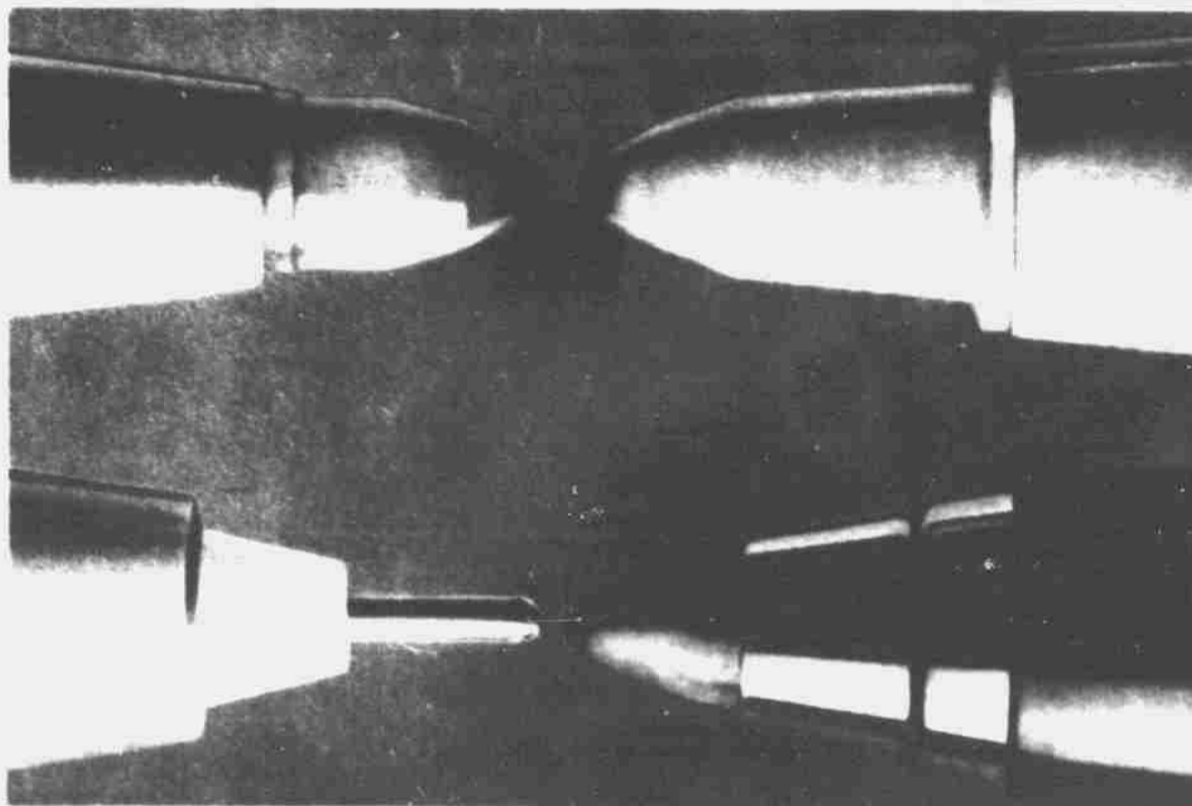
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Student in Focus

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