

To say that Hattiesburg is in a state of transition is to put it mildly. Since I got here five weeks ago, I have been under the supervision of three people who were in charge of coordinating the community center program which I was supposed to be working in and also helping to create. There is a going program of recreation and education which I am to fit into. Mornings, there is a nursery-kindergarten at Palmer's. I help by being an extra person on the staff, which consists of two local persons who have no formal training. I was also supposed to give some advice about things which could be included to improve the program. This relationship has not worked out because I am not the type to make much progress in this kind of situation, and also because I seemed to be a threat to the young woman in charge. Perhaps it is not possible for this to work out in such a short time and with such limited facilities. (I have only three weeks more.)

At Dewey, where I was supposed to be helping create program, at first there was no water and no supplies to speak of (paper, paste, paint and pencils), so the program is quite limited. When the unusual weather changed, we had to discontinue program several days--no heat.

In general, the chief emphasis is Voter Registration, with education and recreation beginning to take more time. Because of the evaluation "kick" that is on just now, the staff is not quite sure what its emphasis should be and how it should work to organize communities.

I do hope that somehow in the restructuring will come the knowledge that one needs to maintain a balanced life in order to operate effectively--that the machine must be maintained (nutrition, rest, recreation, etc.) or it will break down... that there is a need to learn in order that one might teach others. I see a great need for the staff to study--perhaps have a reading list of suggested and required articles and books. It needs to discover how people work together in general, and how it can function as a staff in this particular situation (bi-racial, various levels of education, closed society, etc.)

Lily M. Douglas