



Speaking For Ourselves

The Voice

February, 1985



Fleming Speaks

By Lisa Herring

The Voice: What specific duties does the position of Provost and Vice Chancellor entail?

Fleming: The position of Provost and Vice Chancellor is the number two administrative position at FSU. As Provost, I assist the Chancellor in the total operation of the university. In some instances, I act on the Chancellor's behalf and help to coordinate many of the various units of the university. As Vice Chancellor, for academic affairs, I am the Chief academic administrator of the university. This means I must provide leadership and direction for all the matters that relate to academic issues.

The Voice: What makes you qualified for this position?

Fleming: I think that I have proven myself, through my credentials and experiences to be a scholar, and to have capabilities for the administration. I have had experiences from a variety of levels as a faculty member. I think the combination of my academic background and professional experiences has given me a very good profile for this position. In addition, I have been involved in and watched the growth of FSU over many years. Therefore, I have a kind of sensitivity to the needs of this institution.

The Voice: Do you feel this appointment to this position will be a boost for ERA?

Fleming: As a minority in two particular areas: female and black, I suppose I do represent somewhat of a first. I think that while it is certainly appreciated, the important thing that this brings to light is that this university and UNC are both open to persons who have the capability and the credentials and the profile to provide leadership as administrative and other types of staff persons. And that these persons who have these kinds of profiles, have the opportunity to be reviewed and considered very strongly for positions regardless of sex, race, or other types of special criteria. Also I would hope that this would serve as a kind of reminder to all young minorities who have aspirations for top level administrative positions that it's possible, and that one should seek to make themselves qualified to achieve those goals.

The Voice: Do you feel that inbreeding within the system has a positive or negative effect on the university?

Fleming: In the field of academics, one's total background gives you that particular person's qualifications. Parts of background certainly involve a number of experiences outside of the current place of employment, both in training and other types of involvement. So I'm not sure inbreeding is what I would choose to call it.

With reference to the impact of moving from within the system to a position of administrative responsibility, I certainly think there are some very positive things about that. We would not wish to exclude persons who have the potential and qualifications to hold the position just because they happen to be employed with the institution or within the system.

The Voice: Why do you feel that the university has such a low rate of retention?

Fleming: We're doing a study of retention at FSU. Statistically, we have less retention than we choose to have. But as we have begun to delve into the study, we're finding that there are a number of reasons for students leaving this university. Some of our data indicates that students have come to FSU with the intention of only staying a semester or two. Others come to FSU and experience various kinds of financial and economical problems, and have to for a short period of time, make changes in their educational plans. Also, we do have students that are part of a transient population here. And many times it's due to family relocation, or other kinds of home situations. I think that the retention problem that we have has some unique characteristics that are not, perhaps, recognized initially. I'm certainly ready to say that we want to work on retention. We'd like to retain as many students as we can, and move as many students toward completion of degree programs as possible.

The Voice: Have you given any thought toward the improvement of the academic environment at FSU?

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Plans Continue For Black State Historic Site

By Bev Smith
Historic Sites News Bureau

RALEIGH--Plans to develop North Carolina's First Black State Historic Site are progressing. The site, called Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial State Historic Site, will be located at the old Palmer Institute in Sedalia, east of Greensboro.

The site's program is intended to focus on the contributions Black North Carolinians have made, particularly in education. The site will include a permanent exhibition on Charlotte Hawkins Brown, restorations of historic structures, and a Black History Center with facilities for the collection, study, exhibition, and interpretation of black cultural history in North Carolina.

Project director, Annette Gibbs, and researcher, Charles Wadlington, of the historic sites staff in Raleigh will link the

proposed historic site to the larger themes of black education and social history. "Much has been accomplished since the inception of the project in August, 1983, and we are very excited about interpreting black history to the citizens of our state," explained Gibbs. "Everywhere I go people tell me they are unaware of the contributions black North Carolinians have made, not just in education but in all areas of life. The Charlotte Hawkins Brown Memorial will emphasize this and give the people of our state and other states too a new awareness."

Gibbs feels that Dr. Brown stands as a symbol for what many North Carolinians did to uplift the Black race. "We want to honor both well known citizens such as Dr. Brown and little known artisans,

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Construction Of New Library To Get Underway Soon

By Margaret Phillips

The new Fayetteville State University library will begin construction in late spring or early summer of 1985. It will be located on the vacant lot between the Butler Building and the Continuing Education Building. It will continue to be named Chestnut Library. The estimated cost is eight million dollars. Occupancy of the new library is expected in the spring of 1987. The old library will be closed down and probably used for something else.

One of the main reasons for the need of a

new library is space. Chestnut Library was originally built to store 90,000 to 100,000 volumes. It now has over 150,000 volumes.

New services will be provided by the new library. It will contain a computerized circulation system. In lieu of a card catalog a computer terminal will be used. Audio-visual services such as films, filmstrips, video tapes, and a listening room will be provided. The interior of the library will be designed by a black architect from Greensboro.

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