

PROFESSOR SUES FAYETTEVILLE STATE FOR \$5 MILLION

Courtesy of Fayetteville Press Newspaper

Dr. John Stokes, a sociology professor at Fayetteville State University until last summer when he lost his job, has filed a civil suit in Cumberland County Superior Court against FSU for willful breach of promise. In his complaint Dr. Stokes alleges that FSU promised him permanent employment if he obtained the doctorate degree, as required for permanent tenure pursuant to the Consent Decree of 1979. At the time of the agreement, he was teaching with a Master's Degree in Sociology.

After borrowing huge sums of his retirement money to attend the Graduate School of Political and Social Science at the New School for Social research in New York City, he returned to FSU with the Ph.D. in 1990 only to be given temporary work, contrary to the agreement. Last year, Chancellor Hackley finally fired him without giving him reasons. Because of heavy graduate student debts borrowed against his retirement funds, Dr. Stokes filed for bankruptcy after 14 years of service to FSU.

Dr. Stokes is generally considered a popular teacher who does not miss classes. Official FSU student evaluations of his teaching performance voted him consistently above 4.0 on a scale of 1.0 to 5.0, a very good score. He was also recently honored as one of the nation's best teachers by Who's Who Among America's Best Teachers.

The former Chancellor of FSU, Dr. Charles Lyons is expected to testify on behalf of Dr. Stokes, at the trial which will probably be held in the fall. The plaintiff is asking for \$5 million in compensatory and

punitive damages.

Fayetteville's experienced lawyer, Mitchell Gadsden, is handling the case for Dr. Stokes.

According to Dr. Stokes, Chancellor Hackley's deliberate humiliation of him is but one instance of the general treatment which has driven many black faculty out of FSU since Chancellor Hackley took office six years ago. The following is only a partial list of black professionals who left jobs at FSU in the past six years: Dr. Herman Manning, Dr. Henry Darling, Dr. Williams, Dr. Barbara Haile, Dr. Hudson Kwakanma, Professor Conley, Professor Israel Rwejuna, CPA, Dr. Betty Plummer, Librarian Richard Friffin, Dr. Bertran Coppock, Dr. Delores Hayes, Dr. Willie Kimmons, Attorney Kaye Webb, Dr. Geofferey Rugege, Dr. Doreen Hilton, Dr. Alex Nikireru, Dr. Harold Wade (an experienced vice chancellor). There are other blacks who retired prematurely.

In six years Chancellor Hackley has changed academic vice chancellors five times, deans in the College of Arts and Sciences six times, and deans in the School of Business three times.

Dr. Stokes, a race relations sociologist, believes that UNC President C.D. Spangler will do nothing about this costly situation so long as Chancellor Hackley talks like a desegregationist but behaves in a way that seems to discriminate against blacks.

By Dr. John Stokes

(Fired FSU Professor)

FSU PEER EDUCATORS CERTIFIED

By Winnie Best

Thirteen years ago an epidemic, AIDS, was identified in the U.S. and it has not gone away. There is a growing need for more education concerning AIDS reducing the probability of persons acquiring the virus that causes it. HIV and AIDS education must become the centerpiece of reducing the toll of this deadly virus. Current statistics show frightening increases in the Afro-American population as well as among young people ages 13-24.

The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO) and the American Red Cross have provided a conduit for educating another level of society. On August 14-19, 1994 these organizations sponsored intense training for the certification of **peer educators** from historically Black colleges and universities across the United States. The training was very thorough and had a well-received Afrocentric emphasis throughout. This conference was held at Hampton University where students had the opportunity to see and learn the rich legacy of another Historically Black University.

Chosen amongst those peer educators from these HBCUs were **Zacques Gray**, a senior majoring in social science who is also the President of the Student Government Association; a national Association of Personnel Association (NASPA) Fellow and holds several other offices. **Jessica Pinzon**, also a senior majoring in biology and is vice president of the Science Club and Beta Kappa Chi. She plans to attend medical school upon graduation.

Higher education students represent an untapped resource at a timely juncture where learning and the