



# THE BRONCOS' VOICE

OF FAYETTEVILLE STATE UNIVERSITY

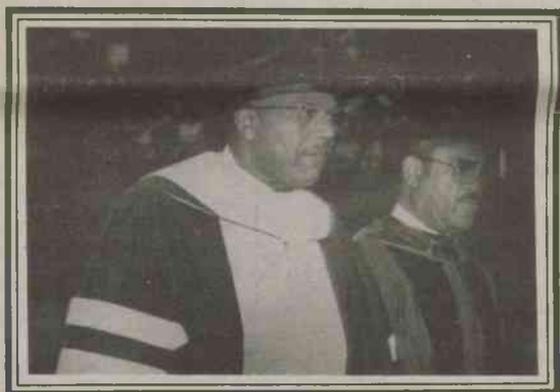
## STUDENTS COME FIRST AT FSU

[Story courtesy of the Fayetteville Observer-Times] The new chancellor of FSU wants faculty and staff to put students first. Dr. Willis McLeod stressed the importance of publications at the first official faculty and staff assembly, held in Seabrook Auditorium. Dr. McLeod also advised the faculty not to mistake his laid-back ways for weakness. "Sometimes people mistake and equate humility with weakness," he told the audience, signaling the start of a new "check your ego at the door" attitude. The chancellor later spoke at a faculty-only meeting in Shaw Auditorium. "Our primary customers are our students. I don't

care who you are. If you don't put students first, then we're going to have a problem," McLeod said. The chancellor also said that faculty members shouldn't think that he's unaware of the political games that take place on university campuses simply because he hasn't worked at a university. "I'm a product of higher education. I've seen the games people play. I've seen them and I disdain them," McLeod said. The chancellor said his job is to remove obstacles so that the people who work at the university can better serve students. "The pomp and circumstance of this job is what I like the least."



Above: FSU 1995 winter commencement Valedictorian Kathy Davis gets cap adjustment from Salutatorian Joyce Freeman. Kathy's degree in Elementary Education while Joyce majored in Accounting.



Left: Chancellor Willis B. McLeod (left) and FSU winter commencement speaker, Dr. Talbert Shaw, lead the academic procession recently at Capel Arena. (Photos courtesy of John B. Henderson)

### FORMER FSU HEAD PASSES ON

Dr. Rudolph Jones, fifth president of Fayetteville State College (1956-1969), which eventually changed to Fayetteville State University, died at his home at the age of 85 after a long illness on December 15.

He was buried on December 23 at Rockfish Cemetery in Fayetteville.

In response to his death, Dr. Willis McLeod, who was student body president during Dr. Jones' tenure, said he felt a sense of personal loss.

"I considered him a friend, a mentor and a tremendous role model. I feel a very deep personal loss with the death of Dr. Jones."

"Dr. Jones presided over Fayetteville State College during a time of great social change. A lot of progress was made for African-Americans as well as the institution during the period in the which he presided," McLeod stated.

A native of Winston, N.C. in Hertford County, Dr. Jones received his undergraduate degree from Shaw University, Raleigh, N.C., where he was valedictorian and received his master's and doctorate degrees in Economics from Catholic University of American in Washington, D.C.

During his administration, the curriculum was expanded to include majors in secondary education and programs leading to degrees outside the teaching field. In 1963, the name of the school was changed to Fayetteville State College. Also, during his leadership, six additions were made to the physical plant to accommodate a rapidly expanding enrollment.

Fayetteville State University, in 1972, dedicated and named the Rudolph Jones Student Center in his honor. Dr. Jones was active in community affairs and professional organizations. He was active in College Heights Presbyterian Church and was a veteran of World War II.



## OVER 300 GRADUATE IN DECEMBER

by John B. Henderson

History was made on December 19, 1995 when the school's new chancellor, Dr. Willis McLeod, became the first chief administrator and graduate of Fayetteville State University to dispense diplomas signed by an alumnus. The students became the first class in the 128-year history of the institution to accept a diploma signed by a graduate. Dr. McLeod was a graduated in 1965.

Over 300 degrees were conferred by the new chancellor. Some 2,000 family members, friends, staff and faculty members witnessed the event in the newly named Capel Arena in the Health, Physical Education and Recreation Building on campus.

Students with highest honors were Kathy S. Davis, Valedictorian and Joyce R. Freeman, Salutatorian.

Davis graduated Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the School of Education. Freeman finished Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the

School of Business and Economics. Both live in Fayetteville.

Dr. Willis B. McLeod, FSU chancellor, presided at the event. The featured speaker for the occasion, Dr. Talbert O. Shaw, President of Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C., was introduced by the Chancellor.

A member of the Board of Governors, Williams T. Brown, brought greetings from the University of North Carolina. Leonard Hedgepeth, chairman of the FSU Board of Trustees, delivered greetings from the University of North Carolina. From the students, SGA President Wayne Hodges gave greetings.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Shaw, exhorted the graduates to help stamp out racism and attitudes toward racism.

"It's a moral imperative," stated Dr. Shaw, "Don't forget the bridges that brought you over. Fayetteville State is one of those bridges." Of the 316 students receiving diplomas, sixty-one received master's and seventy-seven graduated with honors.