

## NAACP

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left the NAACP shortly after Chavis was fired last fall.

The lawsuit seeks \$2.1 million in punitive and compensatory damages, plus an unspecified amount in back pay, severance pay and other damages. It also seeks promotions for women workers and a court order ordering the NAACP to halt discriminatory practices.

The lawsuit is not meant to "harass the new leadership" of board Chair Myrlie Evers-Williams, but seeks to unravel a pattern of discrimination against women in the 86-year-old organization, said David Blum, attorney for the plaintiffs.

"There is a history that certainly points to this kind of problem at the NAACP over the past few years," Blum said.

The class action was attached to a lawsuit filed last month by Stephanie Rones, an attorney at the NAACP's Baltimore headquarters from December 1991 until last August. Rones, 37, alleges breach of contract,

sexual harassment and discrimination and wrongful retaliatory firing.

Rones was joined by Barbara Coggins of Chicago, a 15-year NAACP employee and national director of the NAACP's ACT-SO program, which promotes academic excellence among black high school students.

ACT-SO is a major NAACP program, with an annual budget of about \$560,000. It places Coggins on par with male program heads and regional directors in the civil rights group. But Coggins, 42, is paid about \$32,000 a year, approximately one-third to one-half less than the others, the lawsuit says.

"If you examine every category, invariably women were paid a lot less than men doing the same kind of work," Blum said. "There was a pattern that was pervasive."

When seeking contributions for ACT-SO, the NAACP routinely submits budgets that indicate Coggins receives "50 percent more a year above what she was actually paid" between 1991 and 1994, the

lawsuit says.

Coggins brought the pay issue to the attention of NAACP officials, and got no satisfactory response, the lawsuit says. She has sought a raise, but didn't receive one.

Only two women are among the 12 top professionals at the NAACP, even though women make up about 75 percent of the NAACP's work force, the lawsuit said. Women typically are paid at least 25 percent less than men.

Also, the lawsuit contends, women receive fewer "privileges of spending" on travel, training and entertainment. Men in senior staff positions often receive "consulting work" bonuses while women do not, the lawsuit said. It also alleges that opportunities to attend seminars or training programs are disproportionately offered to men.

Decisions to give a few women professionals higher salaries or benefits, the lawsuit says, "appeared related not to their capacities but to their special relationships with male officials of defendant NAACP."

## AMAZON

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"This allows the board to look at the merits of the case while the bulldozers are stopped."

The stay, which are rarely granted, required the coalition to put forth \$5,000 that was delivered to the board's office in Salem 15 minutes before closing time Monday by David Zupan, a long-time supporter and spokesman for the coalition.

"I wasn't anticipating a decision that soon, but at the same time I'm delighted," Zupan said. "It's been hard watching the destruction take place and I think it (the decision) shows the seriousness of the case and the urgency behind it."

Last Thursday, two Amazon buildings were demolished to make room for an access road for construction equipment. Before Monday's stay was issued, contractors at the site could demolish the buildings at any time.

According to Stotter, the \$5,000 was raised by several members of the community who support saving the complex from demolition.

"We've had generous support from a number of community members on getting the loan together," Stotter said. "My clients are going to have to work hard to pay back the loan to con-

tinue their struggle."

A press conference is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. today in the Amazon playground to announce the stay and the halt of the demolition. Zupan said discussion will also be held on paying the money back by encouraging people to continue to send in donations to replace the loans.

In terms of how the stay affects the University, Eyster said Monday that although plans to replace and rebuild the complex at East 24th Avenue and Patterson Street will continue, important deadlines are growing closer.

"A long delay could add up to \$1 million to construction cost if we miss our construction season this fall," Eyster said, "and even a short delay could prevent moving the 30 St. Vincent de Paul units."

Under an agreement reached by the city of Eugene, University officials and Terry McDonald, executive director of St. Vincent de Paul, McDonald has until May 15 to move 30 units (two buildings) to a city-owned site at 200 E. 19th Ave., with the possibility of moving more of the total 244 units during Phase II construction.

Eyster said if the units can't be moved by that time, they will also be demolished.

## ET ALS

MISCELLANEOUS

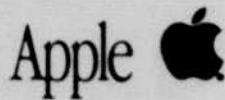
Teach for America will offer an informational session Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in EMU Cedar Rooms A and B. For more information, call 346-3235.

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