

'Substantial Progress' Keeps Contractor On Auditorium

BY SUSAN USHER

Brunswick Community College and its agents are "just kind of watching and waiting" to see if contractors on the Odell Williamson Auditorium construction project continue making the same effort as was made during a 15-day warning period.

On Feb. 19, BCC trustees gave Hatcher Construction Co. 15 days to make "substantial progress" toward completion—with a list of work it expected to be done, or be considered in default of its contract.

That deadline ended March 8 without most but not all of the items completed and without the general contractor being found in default. Architects Boney & Associates of Wilmington instead sent Hatcher a letter saying the company is being closely watched to see if it continues its recent progress.

If the company slows down or gives BCC other reasons to find it in default, the college would pursue other means of getting the work completed, notifying Hartford Fire Insurance Co., the bonding company, to hire another contractor.

"I don't see any decision being made over the next week or two unless something changes," Vice President for Administration Ben DeBlois said Friday. "I really do think they got the hint."

DeBlois has been working with the architect, state construction office and college building and grounds committee on the project.

Architect Ken Phelps told trustees last Wednesday night, March 17, that contractors appear to be placing a lot of emphasis on the project.

"We think it should have been completed by Dec. 10 according to the contract, but we are heartened by their progress," he said. "They're progressing better than they have in the past."

Building and Grounds Committee member Lewis Stanley concurred. "It's completely different than it was a few days ago," he said, referring to the number of people on the job and progress of the job.

Brick cleaning, walkway construction, paving of the parking lot are among the work contractors are address-

BCC PRESIDENT EARNS DEGREE Finally He's 'Dr.' Michael Reaves

BY SUSAN USHER

Call him "Dr. Mike." Or better yet, "Dr. Reaves."

It was cause for celebration last Wednesday night when Brunswick Community College President W. Michael Reaves announced the news to BCC trustees.

"Monday was a big day for me," he began, after Chairman David Kelly asked if he had anything he wanted to announce to trustees. "I successfully defended my dissertation at N.C. State University."

Award of his doctorate in education marks the end of 12 years of work at NCSU toward that goal. Reaves' dissertation was based on field research and analysis that explored the effect of leadership training on the performance of food service workers. His doctoral program was in adult and community college administration with a minor in public administration.

Reaves was working on the dissertation when ap-
pointed as BCC's interim president following the dismissal of Joe Carter in August 1987. When hired in mid-1988 as president, completing degree requirements was a stipulation of his employment agreement. He was dean of continuing education at Sampson Community College in Clinton at the time.

"He came to us with no experience as president but determined to be a college president," recalled Chairman David Kelly. "And we wanted him very much to be Dr. Reaves."

Reaves said he would not have been able to complete the dissertation while meeting his responsibilities at the college without the trustees' support and cooperation. "I really appreciate your working with me," he said.

At Wednesday's hour-long board meeting, board and staff celebrated with Reaves before settling down to address a brief business agenda. A banner hung across one wall of the board room and as a surprise, staff served a sheetcake with the message, "Congratulations Dr. Reaves."

Reaves also holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural and industrial education and a master's degree in adult education—both from N.C. State University.



REAVES

To date the college hasn't withheld any payments to Hatcher, but DeBlois said BCC does intend to retain sufficient funds to cover liquidated damages for work that goes beyond the 290 working day specified in the contract.

DeBlois said the project has been a new experience for him. "I've never been involved before in a project that has taken on this complexion," he said. For the college it has been a project associated with "great pride, great love and great frustration," as it had "to rely on other people to do what they were supposed to do under

the contract."

In related business Wednesday the board tabled several auditorium change orders until questions about need could be resolved. One request was to run conduit to the ticket booths to accommodate a future remote ticket sales and communication system and conduit to the lobby, office and conference room to accommodate future installation of monitors. Also sought is installation of air conditioners for the ticket booths instead of heater/fan units.

"I think we ought to stick to the original plans unless there's a real good reason not to," said Chairman David Kelly.

In other business the board:

■ Approved a Tech Prep agreement with Brunswick County Schools.

■ Approved a new computer software policy to ensure copyright protection laws are not violated on BCC campuses.

■ Heard from Building and Grounds Chairman Al Wooten: that renovations at the Southport campus are about 75 percent complete.

■ Heard from Reaves that he and several board members will be taking the local legislative delegation to lunch on April 13 as part of a statewide lobbying effort a community college bond issue and other funding needs.

■ Learned from Dean of Student Services Beth McLean that student headcount was up 15 percent for the spring quarter to 820 students (See related story in this issue.).

■ Heard from DeBlois that the college "came through with flying colors" on its regular audit, based on the exit conference. The auditor has recommended additional checks on how names are added to and deleted from the payroll.

■ Heard from DeBlois that cafeteria operations showed a net profit of \$6,344 through the end of February. Proceeds will be used to fund scholarships, with 10 percent going to support Student Government Association projects.

■ Learned that students will be getting photo identification cards.

ALLEGED DRUG DEALERS DOMINATE LIST OF DEFENDANTS

Brunswick Grand Jury Indicts Eight on 21 Drug Charges

Alleged drug dealers dominated the list of defendants indicted by a Brunswick County grand jury Monday, with eight suspects headed for Superior Court on a total of 21 charges.

Two Leland men and another defendant from Hampstead were indicted on 14 charges relating to the sale and delivery of cocaine to an undercover detective last May.

Zack Cobb, 40, of House Road, Leland, and Walter Lynwood Bell Jr., 29, of Hampstead, each were indicted on one count each of conspiracy to traffic between 28 and 200 grams of cocaine; possessing, trans-

porting cocaine; selling cocaine and delivering cocaine.

Ronald Ellis Robbins, 41, of Route 1, Leland, was charged with conspiracy to traffic cocaine and with possessing, transporting and delivering the drug.

Other defendants indicted include:

■ Alfred James Lewis, 39, of Longwood on a charge of possessing crack cocaine last Sept. 18.

■ Rose Marie Lyles, 20, of Big Macedonia Road, Supply, on a charge of possessing lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD). The offense is alleged to have occurred Dec. 3.

■ Mary Jane Hudson, 41, of Sea Castle Drive, Supply, on one charge each of possession with intent to sell and deliver seven grams of marijuana, selling and delivering marijuana and maintaining a dwelling for the purpose of selling marijuana. She was arrested after an alleged July 22 offense.

■ Gerald Patrick Grimes, 20, of Todd Street, Shallotte, on one count each of possessing 76.7 grams of marijuana and maintaining a vehicle for keeping and selling marijuana. The offense allegedly occurred June 27.

■ Richard Steven Barnhardt, 20, of Nottingham Circle, Sunset Beach,

on one charge each of manufacturing marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. He is accused of growing marijuana in plastic drink bottles with the tops cut off and moving them outside his home. He was arrested Nov. 18.

■ Odell Dyson Freedle, 38, of Route 6, Shallotte, and Shannon Lea Beasley, 24, of Ocean Isle Beach on a charge of shooting a .32-caliber semi-automatic pistol into an occupied vehicle. The two are accused of firing into a pickup truck on Gray Bridge Road Oct. 10.


■ Wilbur Lee Kinlaw Jr., 34, of Long Acres subdivision, Ocean Isle Beach, on two counts each of felonious breaking and entering and felonious larceny and three charges of possessing stolen goods. Kinlaw and a neighbor are accused of breaking into numerous homes in their mobile home park over a two-year period.

■ Jamie Damon Huff, 17, of Baldwin Estates, Leland, on one count each of second degree burglary, felonious larceny and felonious possession of stolen goods. He is accused of breaking into a home on Baldwin Drive on the night of Nov. 13 and stealing a

.22-caliber pistol, a telephone answering machine and several check-books. The total value of stolen property was estimated at \$395.

■ Anthony Craig Smith, 29, of Shallotte on one count each of driving while impaired after being convicted three times of DWI charges, failure to stop for a blue light and siren, assault on a law enforcement officer and driving while his license was permanently revoked. Smith is accused of kicking and spitting on an Ocean Isle Beach police officer who was attempting to arrest him on Jan. 9.

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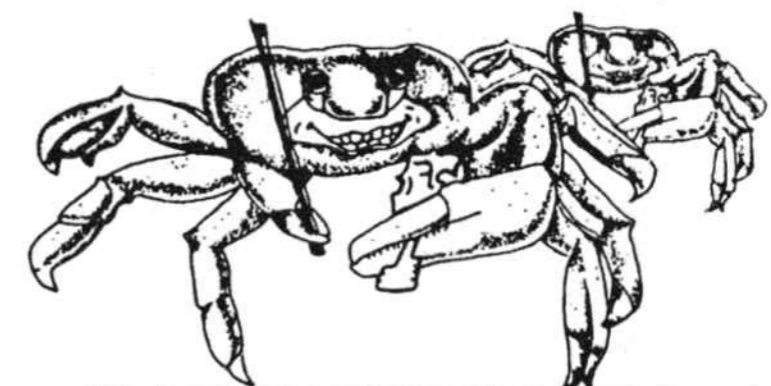
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