

'You can't touch this'

Photo by Jamie Jordan



Looking suave and debonair as the Hammer himself, SGA's officers are introduced during Coronation night, 94. The officers are from left: Tarik Scott, President; Acquita Robinson; Treasurer; Keisha Kent, Corresponding Secretary; Nakeisha Sylver, Attorney General, and Warshella Turner, Recording Secretary. Tesha Jones, Vice President, is not pictured.

Students move into Butler Hall; \$2.5 million renovation completed

By Gloria Alexander

The \$2.5 million renovation of Butler Hall is finally complete and Butler Hall is ready for occupancy. That should be good news to the approximately 28 ECSU students who have been housed in local motels until the renovation was completed.

Although Butler Hall was originally scheduled to be ready for fall, 1994 occupancy, the renovation has been slowed by bad weather, the need to remove asbestos from the walls, and a slow pace of work, according to Roger McLean, Vice Chancellor for Business and Fiscal Affairs.

The contractors worked at a pace that went beyond the agreement of their contract, according to McLean.

"We were not happy with the overall performance of the contractor, relative to getting the job completed," he said. "Workmanship appeared to be good but the deadline for completion was not met."

McLean said he and other officials feel "very bad" about the resulting inconvenience to the students who have been

living in local motels as a result of Butler's not being ready for them.

"We would like for the male students to move on campus to be closer to their classes," said McLean. "I know it is difficult because of this inconvenience to them."

Some of the young men who have been staying in motels are upset because of the delay in construction.

"How do they expect us to get to class on time when we are across town?" said one ECSU senior who has been living in Holiday Inn. Ronnie Edmundson, supervisor for the renovation project, declined to comment on the pace of work.

Jerry Hooker, the supervisor for painting of Butler Hall, said there were problems getting the inside of Butler Hall painted.

"Trying to put the finishing coat inside is a difficult task because of the many contract workers completing their jobs," Hooker said. "It gets pretty tiresome trying to put a finishing coat on walls with so many people around."

The weather also helped delay the completion of the painting, said Hooker.

"When it's wet the walls don't dry very well," Hooker said. "I believe that we still did a good job with all of the strikes against us."

McLean said Butler Hall is designed for two students per room; however the new section is divided into suites that can house four students, if necessary. Each room in the suites will have two closets, a sprinkling system and a fire alarm. Although the new section will have one bathroom per suite, there will only be one large bathroom on each floor of the old

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ECSU Senior

section of Butler. The building will also have three wheelchair ramps for handicapped students, an elevator, and a bathroom and a kitchenette across from the lounge for female visitors.

"We hope that the young men will do a good job keeping the building clean,"

said McLean. "I would like to extend my gratitude to the custodians who clean up day by day and I think that our students should appreciate the efforts of these men and women who keep our campus clean."

The University spent about \$6,000 to house the students in motels, McLean said. He added that the University is negotiating with the contractors because of the delay.

Last February, the renovation of Butler Hall came to a halt after a foreman found material in the walls that he suspected to be asbestos. After the material was tested, supervisor Ronnie Edmundson confirmed the substance was asbestos. Prolonged exposure to asbestos particles in the air causes cancer and asbestosis, a chronic lung inflammation. Butler Hall is now free of asbestos and the students can feel safe knowing that they will not be exposed to the harmful substance, said McLean.

"Asbestos removal has cost this university one million dollars over a ten-year period," McLean said. "Chancellor Jenkins deserves most of all the credit for the renovation of Butler Hall."