

Milner project expensive

By LISA JUNOD
Battalion Staff Writer

*"Milner Motel,
We know it well,
Best damn dorm
This side of Hell!"*

No longer will yells like, "Milner Motel" resound through the plastered halls of Milner Roach Manor. No longer will the flaking walls echo with sounds of "Roaches, bite!" in the old dorm near Sbis Dining Hall.

Five weeks ago A.P. Boegner Demolishing Co. began gutting the building in preparation for its conversion to an office building.

Long considered the rattiest dorm on campus, Milner Hall was built in 1911 to satisfy the need for student housing. Before its construction, many students had been forced to live in tents. When the need for housing became acute, Milner and Legett Halls were constructed for \$75,000 apiece. Now, the conversion of Milner to an office and classroom building will cost \$1,950,000, 26 times as much.

Built with solid brick walls, the building has been "tough to tear apart," according to Boegner and his crew. The men working on the job operate deafening air hammers and maneuver Bobcats (small

front-end loaders) around in the building. They say that they "enjoy smashing things up" but enjoy the pay more than anything.

While many students would enjoy seeing the ancient building torn apart, some former residents say they'll miss the large, airy rooms and the peeling paint on the walls they felt free to write on.

"It was really a nice place, once you got used to it," one old resident lamented. "I had one of the biggest rooms on campus all to myself, and plenty of good company..."

Right now the building is filled with broken windows, piles of rubble and linoleum tiles scattered across the floor. The walls of the rooms, painted emerald green, robin's egg blue and a host of other colors, are covered with layers of dust and grime generated by the demolition equipment. Beneath the makeshift staircase that the workers have constructed to replace the old stairs lies a burial ground for old radiators.

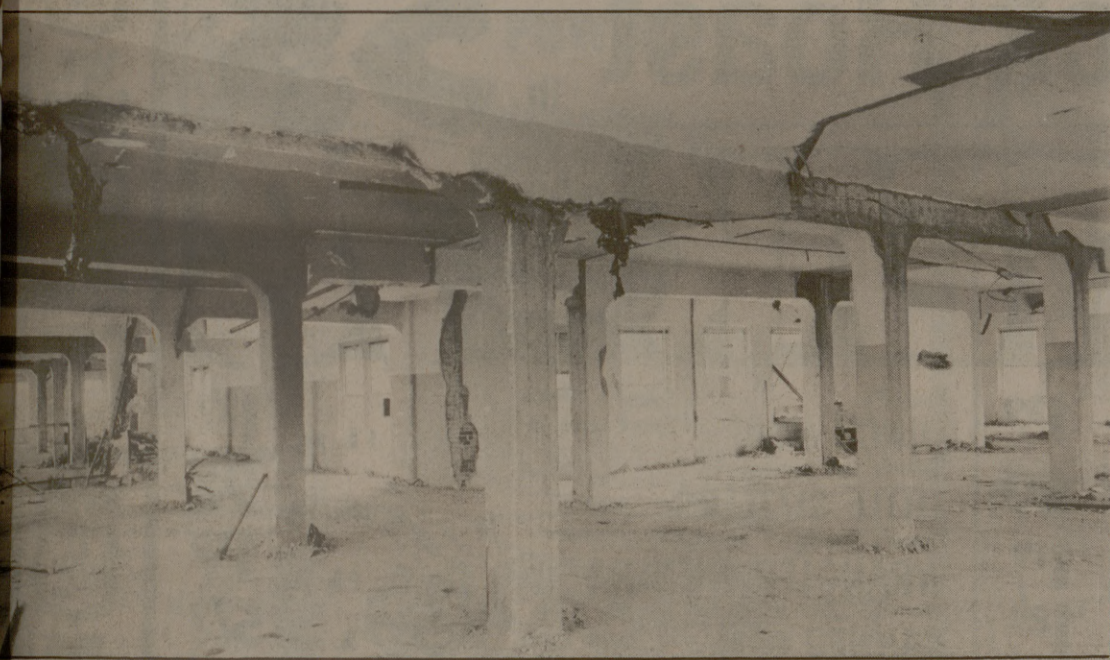
Within two weeks the demolition will be completed, and Jones and Williams Construction Co. will take over renovation of the building. By August of next year it will house seven classrooms and 100 offices, and no more will it hear the tread of Milner roaches down its newly polished halls...



A man with a jackhammer (above) can be very effective in tearing up floors. Holes are being made through parts of Milner's floors to make way for an elevator shaft. The floors (below) will be modeled into classrooms and/or offices.



Most demolition jobs require lots of back-breaking, muscle-straining work. This man is one of the fortunate few; he gets to sit down while putting in his ten hours.



Photos by Steve Goble and Kevin Venner

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