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Campus renovation plans see mix of Clear Delta Studies Center opening postponed until fall

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The Herald Staff

The aggressive development and growth of Jonesboro may be one reason for the inflated bids offered by contractors to complete the Delta Studies Center at Arkansas State University, Dr. Stanley Williams, vice president for finance and administration, said.

The center will house the literary and art work of Earle native Carroll Clear and will be located in the sixth and seventh floors of the Dean B. Ellis Library.

"ASU has budgeted \$1 million to complete the project," Williams said.

Williams said the \$1 million budget is in line with current construction costs. The lowest bid submitted to the university has been \$1.4 mil-

lion.

Williams said other reasons for the high bids may include price increases to contractors from subcontractors and from manufacturers.

"If an elevator manufacturer tells a contractor that an elevator costs \$90,000 and that elevator comes in at \$145,000, then there is a problem," he said.

Ruth Hawkins, vice president for institutional advancement, reported to the state Rural Development Commission in Little Rock of the inflated bids, and of ASU's intention to explore its options last Thursday.

According to the Nov. 12 issue of the *Jonesboro Sun*, Hawkins told the commission, "We are looking now at re-bidding."

The opening of the Delta Studies Center has been postponed from the spring of this year to the fall because of the high bids.



Photo by

Jeff Bailey, head circulation librarian, stands on the empty seventh floor of the Ellis Library. Renovation of the sixth and seventh floors, scheduled to house the Studies Center, has been postponed because of high construction bids for the