



THE COMPASS

Elizabeth City State University's award-winning student newspaper

Vol. 64, No. 2

March 26, 2001

Circulation 2,200



Preparing Leaders for the New Millenium?

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Contributor

Many Elizabeth City State University students are looking into their futures and are questioning if they are really being prepared for their lives in

the new millennium. The question they ask is whether or not they are receiving the top notch education they are paying for, and if their preparation here at ECSU will prepare them for the world of work.

Like those at neighboring campuses,

ECSU students recognize that one of the keys to becoming effective learners is the instruction delivered to them by the professors in the classroom, something that some students feel is not happening. Dr. Albert L. Walker, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, is the person directly responsible for almost all aspects of students academic life. "You're given the foundation you need here in order to be successful," said Walker.

But what happens when a student claims that he or she is not being challenged in the classroom or being taught things that will be relevant in the near future? According to Walker, there are a number of things occurring that prepare ECSU students for the new millennium. He said that ECSU, like many

universities, start freshman and sophomores in general education courses that give them basic skills like communication skills and music appreciation. By the time the students reach their Junior and Senior year, Walker said, they should be doing specific training in their major which includes, Internships, student teaching, student observations and research that they can apply in real life situations. Some students also participate in exit assessments and interviews designed to show what they have learned. When one looks at the way the learning process is laid out it seems as if students should be able to complete their four years smoothly.

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Some of the G.R. Little Library's resources are old and outdated.
Photo by Inger Parker

Asbestos Scare in Johnson Hall

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There is a gaping hole in the wall of a Johnson Hall storage room. While attempting to install new computer wiring for all of the classrooms and offices, Telemedia Communications Inc., a Georgia based company, detected asbestos while tearing down the walls and ceiling.

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral used for fireproofing and electrical insulation. If asbestos particles are small enough and are ingested, the mineral can cause damage to the lungs. An amount of one percent or more of the mineral requires caution according to the State Department of Environmental and Natural Resources. In the case of Johnson Hall, the content detected was about 3 percent.

Mr. Gregory Magee, Director of Facilities Management, said he is 100 percent sure the students, faculty and staff will not be affected to the asbestos removal in Johnson Hall because precautions were taken to ensure that everyone is safe. After the asbestos was detected, the room was isolated by placing an absorbent sheet of plastic over the hole. A big fan with a filter was

brought into the enclosed area to clean the air. When the air was tested and found to be safe, the plastic was taken down, discarded appropriately and the room reopened.

Because many of the University's buildings will be worked on in the next few years, a study was done on all of the older buildings. The majority of the buildings had materials that contained asbestos. The mineral was found in floor tiles, pipe insulation and wall insulation, all of which are harmless forms unless these materials are ground into dust and thrown into the air and ingested.

Magee maintains that there is no asbestos threat in Johnson Hall. "We don't by any means treat it casually, but we take care of it properly; so I don't see it as a major problem," he said. Magee also said that in addition to Telemedia's construction crew and abatement contractors, the people who performed the air cleaning procedure, an independent testing company was hired as well to double-check the safety of the air.

Construction in Johnson Hall resumed during spring break to remove parts of the ceiling containing the asbestos and install new wiring.



Construction crew working on wiring in Johnson Hall where asbestos was detected.

Photo courtesy of Mr. Bartlett