



The Compass



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Elizabeth City, N.C.

Trahan rocks the boat!



Sports/page 3

The sky is the limit



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Terri's fight



After a botched operation, Terri Schindler-Schiavo was left with severe brain damage. Who has the right to decide if she lives or dies?

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Unemployed

By Matt Steen



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300 march to honor King

Elizabeth City celebrates MLK Day

By Toby Tate
Editor-In-Chief

Over 300 Elizabeth City State University and College of the Albemarle students and community members, braving below freezing temperatures, assembled at the ECSU library and singing "We Shall Overcome" and carrying banners for ECSU and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, marched downtown to the front of the City Hall building in remembrance of the accomplishments of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The crowd was met at City Hall by Mayor John Bell along with the Reverend Charles Foster of the Holy Trinity Community Church; Raymond Rivers, president of the Pasquotank County NAACP; guest speaker Keith Richardson, who is an educator at Pasquotank County High School and an advisor for Alpha Phi Alpha, the same fraternity as Dr. King, and City Representative Myrtle Rivers, all of whom were invited by the sponsors, ECSU, the Beta Zeta chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha and the City of Elizabeth City, to greet the crowd.

In his greeting the mayor said, "This is our present, what we see here today, and I guess it's the result of the past and the great



Richardson

leader Dr. Martin Luther King and what he caused to happen in this great country."

Raymond Rivers followed the Mayor's speech by reflecting on King's past as a minister from Alabama who became the president of the Christian Southern Leadership Conference and committed himself to responding to the cry of freedom.

Rivers said King's refusal to back away from confronting racial bigotry and injustice by demonstrating in peaceful protest caused him to win the Nobel Peace Prize. Because of King's vision, Rivers said, the 1964 Civil Rights Bill was passed.

"As we come each year to pay tribute to this great man, what vision do we have?" Rivers asked. "I challenge each of you to get involved, and to pick up the torch Dr. King left behind."

Following Rivers, Michael Hogg, vice president of the



ECSU student Carleta Ricks performs acapella for the crowd at the Martin Luther King Day Celebration in front of the Elizabeth City Town Hall.

Photo by Toby Tate

College of the Albemarle Student Government Association quoted a passage from King's 1968 speech made the day before his assassination. "I have looked over and I have seen the Promised Land. I may

not get there with you, but I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the Promised Land."

Cecil Perry, Vice Chairman of the Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners, standing in for

Chairman Bill Trueblood, commended the crowd for attending the rally despite the cold weather.

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Rental program still unresolved

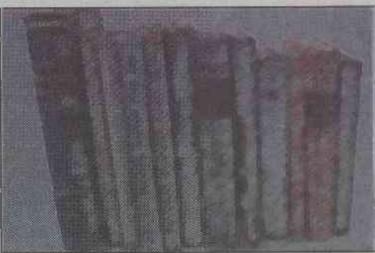
Price of new books too high for many students

By Marshall Goatley
Staff Writer

The book rental system has been in place at Elizabeth City State University for a number of years. According to ECSU Campus Bookstore manager Pedro Holley, now the administration wants to do away with the book rental system so students can "build a personal library." If

students want to keep any of their books they can buy them at the end of the semester, but many students say they do not have the money to buy their books.

One of students' main concerns about doing away with the book rental system is financial aid. Some students say



they are just barely getting enough financial aid to pay their tuition now. If

forced to buy their books next fall, some may have to go without books all semester.

Some students from both in and out of state still live with their parents who make too much money to get enough financial

aid to pay for everything, so some say they may have no alternative but to leave ECSU if the book rental system is done away with.

Dr. Carolyn Mahoney recently stepped down as Vice Chancellor to take a position as President of Lincoln University, and was one of the main people pushing for the end of the book rental system on campus, leaving it in a state of limbo.

Last November, ECSU students showed their unity in disagreement with the administration in trying to

discontinue the book rental system. The students marched to the Thorpe administration building with a signed petition in a dispute over the program that has yet to be resolved.

Some students say the book rental system is not only a great selling point for ECSU, but is a unique aspect of the college. The book rental system sets ECSU apart from other universities and colleges where students have no choice but to purchase their books, for about

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Remodeling to begin for Johnson Hall

Total cost estimated at over \$3 million

By Bruce Midgette
Staff Writer

Elizabeth City State University's Johnson Hall has been sealed off for the start of renovations to the cramped and outdated building.

Preparations for the upcoming renovations actually started last year as classes and furniture were removed from the building. Johnson Hall is expected to have larger classes, more office space and updated laboratories.

Language and Literature Dept. Head Administrative Assistant, Pernell Bartlett said, "There will be more modern labs. There will also be Mass Media, Speech Pathology, and Resource Writing

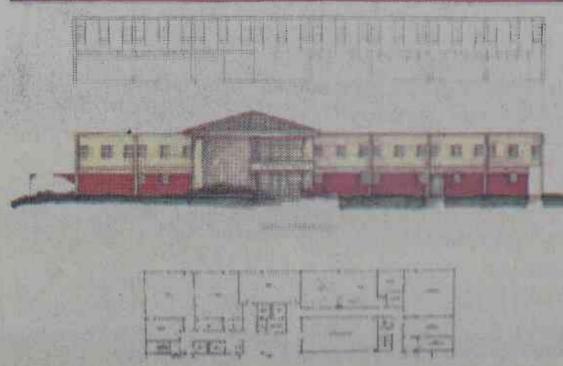
Labs."

Students and staff will have the advantage of better sound quality in classes. The new rooms will provide fewer echoes, so the sounds of pencils hitting the floor and paper being crumpled should not be as annoying.

Johnson Hall will also feature

Hazardous waste?
Does Johnson Hall have asbestos?
See story on page 4.

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VANS picks up new members at ceremony

Returning members also honored

By Kimberly Lilly
Staff Writer

Vikings Assisting New Students, one of the 60 clubs and organizations on Elizabeth City State University's campus, inducted 24 new members at its annual Induction and Recognition ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 26, in the K.E. White Graduate Center.

The ceremony featured the accomplishments of VANS, originally known as the "BIG BUDDIES," a program that began in the early 80's with very few members.

VANS, coordinated by the ECSU Counseling and Testing Center, has been in operation for more than seven years.

Mrs. Deborah G. Branch,



Branch

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and director of the Counseling and Testing Center, said, "The purpose of the program is to make all new students and their families and/or guests feel welcome while at the University."

Members of VANS host many activities throughout the school year. They serve as peer

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