

Asbestos hazard may involve dorms

Threat bothers student

By DANE CLAUSSEN
Of the Emerald

The asbestos hazard in the east wing of the Science I building is insignificant compared to the potential threat of asbestos in dormitories, says Mitchell Anstine, a former board member of the Residence Hall Governance Council.

Asbestos — a known cause of cancer — was reported to be flaking off the large beams supporting the Science I building, where it is used as insulation. Anstine contacted the Emerald about another possible asbestos hazard after reading the Dec. 9 article about the problem in Science I.

Pipes in dorm rooms are wrapped with asbestos insulation and often are located less than three feet from the beds, says Anstine, a senior chemistry major.

"In one room, you had to rip the pipe insulation to open the window," he says.

John Thorpe of the housing office says there is asbestos in pipe wrappings but says the pipes are safe.

"The test is whether they (asbestos surfaces) have been sealed," he says.

"The physical plant did some rewrapping and refitting to eliminate possible hazards. Our systems have been checked."

This doesn't mean that "at any one moment" there isn't a pipe wrapping torn or asbestos exposed otherwise, but physical plant crews fix such hazards as soon as possible, he says.

Fiberglass, an alternative to asbestos, is unnecessary and expensive, he says.

Broken pipe jackets can be found in heating tunnels, says John Kahananui, University

architect, "but I don't know of any other" asbestos hazards. Staff entering those tunnels must wear masks, he says.

Dormitory pipes are "adequately protected," Kahananui says. "I think the problem is infinitesimal."

Asbestos in dormitories poses no hazard, agrees Don Lee, associate director of dormitories. He says he knows of no instances in which ripped pipe coverings were not repaired soon.

Insulation on ceilings at the University generally is wood-based materials sealed with latex paint, Thorpe says, adding that fiberglass and other materials are used to replace asbestos insulating pipes.

The Earl complex probably has the most potential problems with asbestos, Anstine says.

He says he pointed out potential hazards to Thorpe and "did just about everything up to bringing in the Health Department" but got little reaction from Thorpe and other officials.

"I was hoping Thorpe would do something about it," Anstine says.

Thorpe had known about the hazards and looked at them with Anstine but had a "ho hum attitude," Anstine says.

"We're not ignoring it," Thorpe says, explaining that dorms are checked for various reasons "several times a year" and he just "went through" the Earl building.

"I should have ramrodded it through the Health Department," Anstine says. "Even if (the pipes) were adequately wrapped, they are not safe," he says.

Anstine says he did tell the county health department about



McClure Hall resident Mike Bryce watches TV in the basement of his dormitory. The pipes above his head are insulated with asbestos.

the hazard and that department officials were "shocked by it."

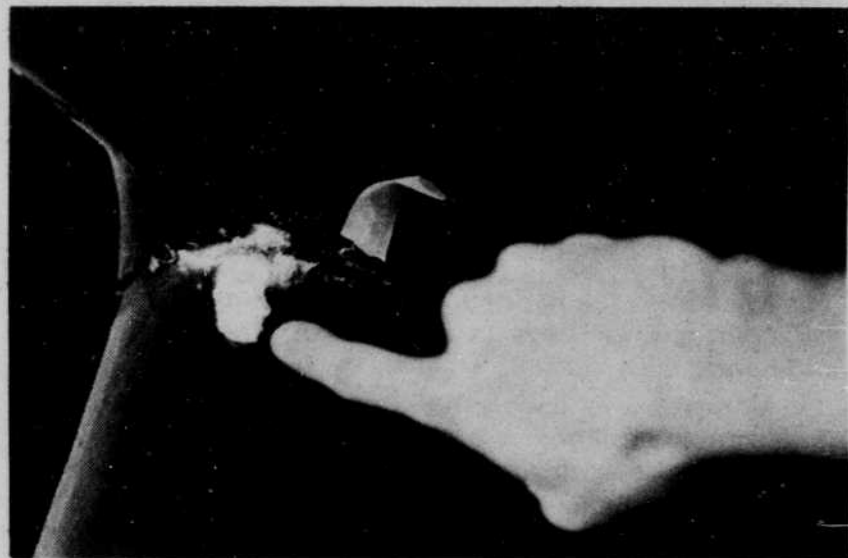
But George Bressells of the Environmental Health Division of the Lane County Health Department says no reports have crossed his desk.

No other students have complained, Thorpe says. Anstine "worries a little bit more about it than he should."

But Anstine says his worries are valid. "There's no place for asbestos to go except up your lungs," Anstine says.

It should be stressed that asbestos was used before there was any idea of its hazards, Thorpe says.

"We didn't even use face masks" when dealing with it, he says.



Photos by Bob Baker

Grad student Mitchell Anstine points out torn pipe insulation. Leaking asbestos fibers pose a health hazard in residence halls, he contends.



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

Students peruse used books at the new student-run co-op book bazaar.

Book co-op struggling But profits should improve with time

What began as an observation about the University by a transfer student became a student service and group fundraiser for the campus American Advertising Federation chapter.

The chapter has started a book co-op, which serves as a medium for students to sell books to other students at prices the sellers establish.

This is the first time the Federation has formed a co-op, and it is skeptical about making a profit this week, says Jessica Drate, the advertising major who thought up the idea.

She says a major cost that cut into profits of the co-op, located in the southwest corner of the EMU cafeteria, was buying receipt books.

"The school I used to go to (University of North Carolina) had a book co-op," Drate says, adding she was surprised to

find this one doesn't.

"Here no one had heard of one," she says. "It's going pretty well considering it's the first time."

"We'll keep on doing it," Drate adds, explaining she believes the effort will be more successful each term.

Any profits will be used to sponsor teams of students at regional and national advertising competitions, according to Drate.

"They're an alternative and I'm not opposed to them," says Jim Williams, general manager of the University Bookstore. "I wish them well, personally," he says.

Students can buy books, sell books, and collect money for their books that have been sold today and Friday. Students whose books don't sell may reclaim them Friday.