

Bookstores singing some textbook shortage blues

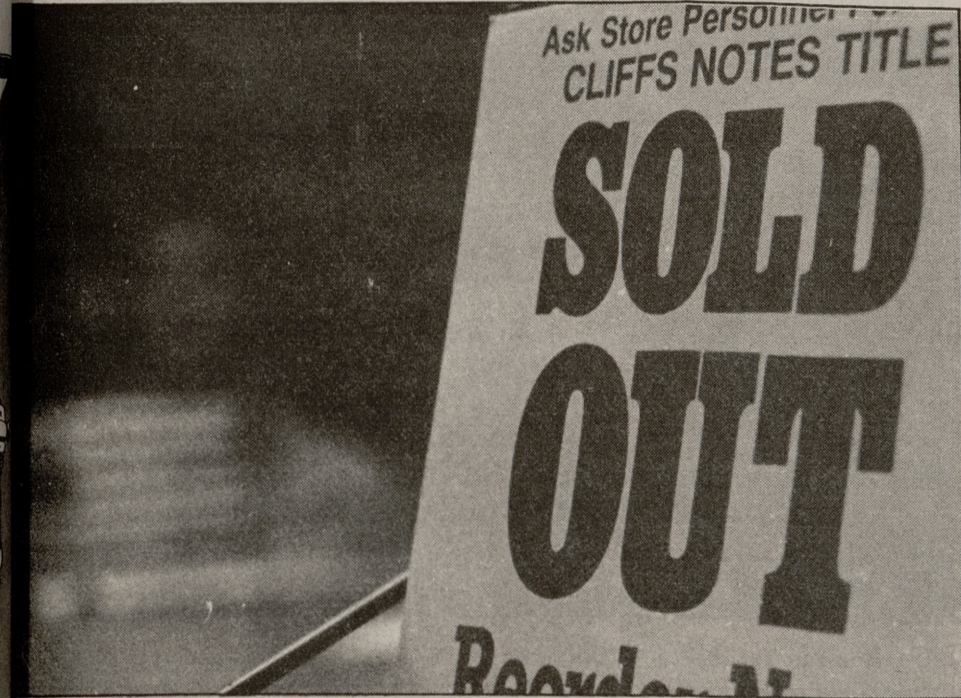


photo by Todd Woodard

A number of books are disappearing from local merchants' shelves faster than they can be replaced. Bubba Clive of the Texas Aggie Bookstore says accounting books are in fairly short supply, but history and chemistry books aren't clearing as quickly.

by Rachel Bostwick
Battalion Reporter
Contrary to popular belief, area bookstores don't deliberately run out of textbooks just when students need them. The Texas A&M Bookstore now has a shortage of about 1 percent of the 6,000 required textbooks, store Manager Howard DeHart said. The bookstore usually has about a 4 percent shortage at the beginning of the semester, he said. Shortages can occur if a professor is unsure how many students will be in a class or if a new professor decides not to use the book already ordered, DeHart said. If the problem is simply a numerical mistake, the books can arrive within seven days of

placing the order by phone. However, during rush periods such as the beginning of each semester, DeHart said the bookstore is at the mercy of the publishers. Many times, a company can't fill the order because a book may need to be reprinted, it may be out of print or a new edition may be coming out. These book shortages can affect the price. Bubba Clive of the Texas Aggie Bookstore said if one merchant receives a particular book earlier than other merchants, the price may be \$2 to \$4, above its regular price. Bookstores determine the number of books to order through information from University departments. About two

months before finals week, each professor requests the number of books he will need for the next semester.

Gas turbine study blasting off at A&M

by Terry Duran
Battalion Reporter
The Air Force has asked three of the nation's top engineering schools—Texas A&M University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Indiana's Purdue University—to study gas turbine engines, hoping for more efficient designs. Gas turbine engines are used widely in high-performance jet aircraft, as well as trains, ships, tanks and electrical power generation. Texas A&M's power plant uses a gas turbine to generate 40 percent of the campus' electrical power.

Texas A&M, with the nation's largest engineering school, will select five to eight engineering graduate students on both the master's and doctoral level. These students will be paid \$1,100 a month by the Air Force while in school, and they will be guaranteed a job with one of five major turbine manufacturers during the summer and following graduation. There is no military obligation involved, although students on military contract may request a graduate school educational delay to participate in the program. About six faculty members also will be involved in the research project, acting as advisers to the students in the program. The Air Force will provide ab-

out \$400,000 a year for the project. Dr. Peter Jenkins, head of the turbomachinery laboratories, is coordinating Texas A&M's part of the new program. He said students will look at structural aspects of gas turbines to find improvements in overall engine performance. "We welcome programs of this type," Jenkins said, "because they offer our students a chance to participate in practical, related research programs. Industry is involved because they want to generate some more expertise and cultivate people they can hire. We (Texas A&M) will be able to pay the students about half of what they'll be getting in industry, and they'll get a guaranteed job during the summer and after they graduate, which is really great." Jenkins said the program, which was announced last fall, will get moving in June when students selected for the program go to work—at industry pay—for one of the five corporations involved. He said he expects the number of students involved to gradually increase. Applications from students holding a bachelor's or master's degree in aerospace, mechanical or other appropriate engineering disciplines will be accepted through February. Applications forms are available in 237M Zachry Engineering Center.

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