

Textbooks

First day buying rush can be avoided

by Tim Widdison

Battalion Reporter

It's almost like a day at Disneyland when you try to buy textbooks on the first day of classes. Long lines of students can be found everywhere.

Many Texas A&M students wait until the first day of class to buy their textbooks says Martha Camp, owner of University Bookstores, Inc., because they wait for professors to tell them what books they need.

Students don't have to wait that long, though, Camp says, because the bookstores already have the information on what books are needed for each class. She said University Bookstore has had the lists of books used for each course for the fall semester since the beginning of summer.

The book lists, known as requisitions, are compiled by each department head from information provided by the professors. The professors decide what books will be used each semester, Camp said. The requisition lists are then sent to the Texas A&M Bookstore in the Memorial Student Center.

Shri Kant, book manager for Loupots Bookstore, said the Texas A&M Bookstore provides a copy of each list for each of the local bookstores which sell textbooks for students at Texas A&M.

The lists also provide an estimate of how many students are expected to register for each class so the bookstores can determine how many copies of each book to order, Camp said.

The first group of lists usually are made available just before students register for the following semester, she said.

After determining how many books are in stock, Camp either phones or writes to the different book publishers and orders the amount of books she needs. Used books are ordered from a used book warehouse.

The bookstores are dependent on the publishers and the post office or freight services as to when the books will arrive, she said. She said she tries to order the books as soon as possible so they will arrive before the beginning of the semester.

The prices for new books are determined by the publishers, Camp said. At University Bookstore used prices are 20 percent less than new prices.

When the books arrive they are unpacked and stuffed with several different magazine ordering forms. Camp says the magazine "stuffers" are provided for students who want to order magazines at substantial discounts through magazine clearing houses rather than pay the full subscription price through the magazine.

Once the books are priced

they are put in the book bins with used books on top of new. Sales clerks pull used books first, unless the student requests new books, Camp said.

New books are crisscrossed while used books are stacked spine facing outward so sales clerks can tell used books from new at a glance.

When students go into the store to buy textbooks they need to tell the sales clerk which courses they are taking. The clerk will get the necessary books.

For some courses where different classes use different books, the section number also is necessary to determine what books are needed.

If a book has not arrived at the store or has been sold out, students can special order books for a non-refundable \$3 deposit which is applied to the price of the book, Camp said. Special order books normally take one to three weeks to arrive, depending on the publisher and how the book is sent, she said.

Before the semester begins, books also can be reserved at both Loupots and University bookstores without paying a deposit.

Students who find out they have bought the wrong book or decide to drop a class can return books for a full refund. However, there is a limit on the time they have to return textbooks.

The return period for textbooks bought at University Bookstore is one week after school starts during the fall and spring semesters. The return period at Loupots is two weeks in the fall and one week in the spring.

After the return period ends, students can sell books back to the bookstores, Camp said. The price offered depends on whether the book is being used the next semester, how many copies the store has on hand and whether the book is coming out in a new edition, she said.

University Bookstore is the only bookstore in the nation that buys back old edition books, she says. For most students, the only alternative is to use the books for reference or throw them away.

Camp says she hates to throw away books so she stores them in warehouses. The bookstore has been using the old railroad depot on Wellborn next to the tracks across from Cain Hall as a warehouse since the 1950s, she said.

Camp wants to open a bargain store and sell those books to people interested in purchasing old copies of current textbooks or reference books.

The average life expectancy of a book is three years before the next edition comes out, Camp said. That's because the publishers need to get the used books off the market in order to

make any money.

Because of this, Camp says, the textbook business is like a game of Russian roulette when she's trying to guess whether a book will be coming out in a new edition.

If a book is used only one semester each year, Camp says, she can't afford to take a chance on sitting on the books and waiting to see whether a new edition will come out. Instead, she returns them to the publisher and reorders the books later if they are added to the requisition lists.

'82 death rate hits new low

United Press International
WASHINGTON — America's death rate from accidents dropped 6 percent in 1982, compared with 1981, making it the lowest death rate on record. A newsletter from the American Council of Life Insurance said the '82 rate was an estimated 40.8 per 100,000 population.

We Are Celebrating Our

1st ANNIVERSARY

10%-50% OFF

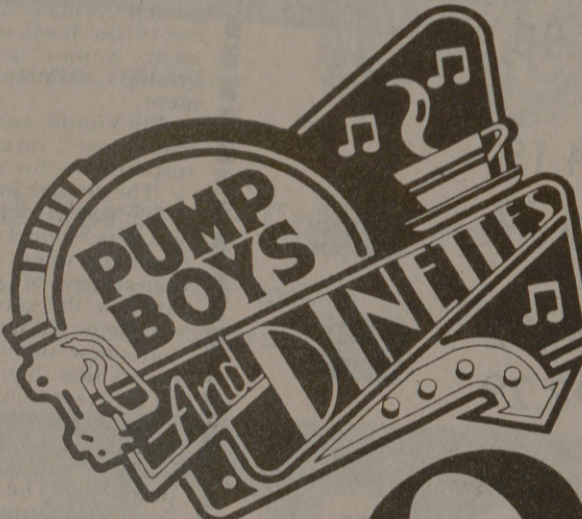
ENTIRE STOCK
(Does Not Include Consignment Items)

UNIQUE GIFTS AND DECORATING ITEMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD AT AFFORDABLE PRICES



Evergreen IMPORTS

505 UNIVERSITY DR. SUITE 303 846-6000



BROADWAY IS BACK!

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
CRIMES OF THE HEART ♦ BLUES IN THE NIGHT

The Best of Broadway is back in Bryan-College Station!

MSC Town Hall / Broadway is bringing Broadway back to Texas A&M for another triumphant season! Last year Town Hall / Broadway offered its first season ticket package to rave reviews. This year should be even better: more shows, more songs, more dance, more laughter. More of the finest theatre in New York, brought to Bryan-College Station for you! And all at a savings!

You get the same seats for every performance, a 20% discount from individual ticket prices and priority seating for the 1984-85 season. We're bringing Broadway back—just for you!

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE
Starring Maria Muldaur, October 23, 1983

Winner of three Tony Awards, this band of fierce yet totally fallible swashbucklers is pursued by their former apprentice, who is honor bound to exterminate them. They may yet be saved by their pursuer's starry-eyed love for the fetching Mabel, played by pop recording star Maria Muldaur. A giddy, rollicking adaptation of the original Gilbert and Sullivan operetta.

"If you go to the theatre only once this year, this is the show!"—*Newsweek*.

CRIMES OF THE HEART
February 2, 1984

This Pulitzer Prize winning tragi-comedy takes us to an evening with the McGrath sisters: Babe, out on bail from shooting her husband; Meg, the struggling singer on leave from a psycho ward; and Lenny, coming to grips with life as an old maid. A wonder of Southern Gothic humor.

"A crime for anyone interested in the theatre not to see this play."—*New York Post*.

BLUES IN THE NIGHT
Starring Della Reese, March 27, 1984

A sultry, sizzling show about three women in 1938 hotel rooms crying the blues. Defiant, nostalgic memories of women who can neither live with men nor without them. Great blues and jazz.

"One of the best musical scores to hit Broadway in many a year."—*Newark Star Ledger*.

PUMP BOYS AND DINETTES
April 16, 1984

Take Highway 57 from Smyrna towards Frog Level. Watch close and you'll find a gas station right across from the Double Cupp Diner, run by them Cupp sisters, Prudie and Rhetta. Roll into the station and them "Pump Boys"—Jim Jackson, Eddie and L.M.—will fall all over you, (if you're buying the beer, of course). Or just pull off on the side and get your ears filled with high octane down-home country rockabilly, bluegrass, gospel and blues.

"As refreshing as an ice-cold beer after a bowl of five alarm chili."—*New York Times*.

tops

EDG kits.
LOWEST PRICE IN TOWN

\$25⁹⁵



*****SPECIAL OFFER*****
Buy a 7-Pen Set for the Price of a 4-Pen Set



\$48⁹⁵

tops THE OFFICE PRODUCTS STORE
2316 Texas Ave. So. College Station, Tx 77840
Telephone 409/696-7639

MSC Town Hall / Broadway 1983-84 Season Ticket Order
"Broadway is Back at Texas A&M!"

CHECK ONE: NEW ORDER RENEWAL

SEATING PREFERENCE: _____ Same Seats / Section _____ Row _____ Seat #s _____
 _____ Best Available / Orchestra _____ Balcony _____

NAME _____

Explain Seating Preference: 1st Choice _____
 2nd Choice _____

Zn.	ORCH.	BAL.	Zone			#	Tickets	x Price =	Total \$
			1	2	3				
Zn. 1	AA-L	A-K	Regular	\$44.00	\$42.00	\$39.00			
Zn. 2	M-Z	L-Q	Student	\$38.50	\$36.75	\$34.25			
Zn. 3	—	R-ZZ							

Payment: Visa MasterCard Check (to MSC Town Hall) Handling 1.00
Grand Total

CARD NUMBER / EXPIRATION DATE _____ CARDHOLDER'S NAME _____

Mail order form and payment to: MSC Box Office • TAMU • P.O. Box J-1 • College Station, TX 77844. If you have any questions please call the MSC Box Office, Monday thru Friday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at (409) 845-1234.

TAMU ID# _____ ADDRESS _____ APT. # _____ CITY ST./ZIP _____ PH/NE# _____