

STATE AND LOCAL

Book exchange opens

Students trade texts

By Rebecca Adair
Staff Writer

When the time comes for students to sell all those books they've been either lugging around or ignoring all semester, the Student Services Book Exchange gives students a chance to set their own price.

Starting Monday and lasting through Friday of finals week, the book exchange will be open from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. in 214 Pavilion.

"The thing that would keep people away is the fact that there is no immediate money," said Carol Ellison, vice president of student services for Student Government, Wednesday.

Ellison said the book exchange system is set up so students can bring in used books, fill out a receipt and set their own desired price. She said

that next fall, the student will either take the sale receipt to the Finance Center to get the money, or the student will get the book back.

"This way you can use the money in the fall when you have to turn right around and buy new books," Ellison said.

The advantage, she said, is students set their own prices, and have a chance of making more than they would by going to a bookstore.

Another advantage is the fact that students buying books also have a chance to pay less for books, she said. So both sides, the buyer and the seller, can benefit, Ellison said.

Brian Francis, former head of the book exchange program, said the idea has been around for three or four years. The Business Student Council handled it last year, he said,

but returned it to Student Government this year.

Next week's process of gathering books is part one of the book exchange program. Part two begins at the beginning of next semester with the sale of the books.

The service is non-profit, other than a 25-cent-per-book fee charged for handling and storage, Ellison said. Until the sale in the fall, the books will be stored in the Pavilion.

The main goal is to provide students with an intermediary, Francis said, so students can save money. He said the committee of about 10-20 people is hoping for a good turnout.

"Through this program we're hoping people will realize Student Government is behind the students and we're trying to help," Francis said.

Rice farmers under probe for restricted pesticide use

Associated Press

BEAUMONT — The Texas Department of Health is testing crawfish in three southeast Texas counties to determine whether they are contaminated by dangerous restricted pesticides, officials said Tuesday.

State health officials stated the tests for Jefferson, Orange and Chambers Counties after a federal probe indicated some rice farmers illegally used the pesticides, said

health inspector Julia Lee.

"We're concerned because some farmers use their rice fields in off seasons and off years to grow crawfish sold for human consumption," Lee told the Beaumont-Enterprise Journal.

Health inspectors are collecting crawfish from three to five fields used for crawfish and rice in each county, Lee said.

The crawfish samples are being

sent to the Health Department's laboratory in Austin, which should have results in about two weeks, she said.

Two-thirds of the crawfish sold in Texas are raised at Orange County farms, officials said.

Three pesticide dealers pleaded guilty in federal court this month to illegally selling restricted pesticides to rice farmers.

Storage buildings filling quickly for the summer

By KIMBERLY PETTIBON
Reporter

Time is running out for Texas A&M students who want to rent storage spaces for their belongings this summer, some local storage building managers say.

"For the last two and a half years, the 10-by-10 and 10-by-15 spaces have sold the quickest," says Shawn Durrett, property supervisor for

The Space Center. "All except the real small units (5-by-5) run out by May."

The average price per month for spaces ranges from \$25 for a 5-by-5 to \$75 for a 10-by-30, although other sizes can be rented.

Kim Brown, a sophomore recreation and parks major, says storing her possessions is more convenient

than taking them home each summer.

"I could take them home cheaper, but because of the time and packing involved, I think it's worth the cost," Brown says. "If you can get three or four people to go in together, it's even better."

During the summer, dampness, heat and insects can damage property, storage building owners and



Fire! Photo by FRANK HADA

B ramp in Hart Hall was filled with smoke Wednesday when a vent fan caught fire. The small fire started at about 4 p.m. Residents were allowed to re-enter the building after it was quickly extinguished.

A&M officials to examine drinking law

Effects on students studied

By DARYN DEZENGOTITA
Reporter

Proposed changes in state drinking age laws have prompted University officials to examine the effects these changes will have on student life, says Dr. Malon Southerland, chairman of the new Alcohol/Drug Awareness Committee.

Southerland's committee will utilize information from the various areas of the University represented on the committee, he says.

"During the spring, we heard many comments raising questions about how the change in drinking age will affect University functions," Southerland, assistant vice president for student services, says. "A change to age 21 will mean that about two-thirds of the student body will be ineligible to drink alcohol."

The committee is comprised of faculty, student and staff representatives from every major University office. Although an alcohol awareness program already exists in the Department of Student Affairs, Southerland says he realizes that other departments such as the University Police and Student Counseling Service have useful information as well.

He says that together, the committee would be able to assist each other and have a greater impact on the problem.

Southerland says the input of the nine student members will be important in defining the problems.

"The students' information is accurate," he says. "Unless we are directly affected, we tend to overlook the problems or pretend they don't exist here. That is not a positive approach. We need to be pro-active in areas that affect the students."

"We are just getting started. Right now, our goal is to educate our members throughout the summer. By fall we will be in a better position to make some recommendations and know what we want to do."

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