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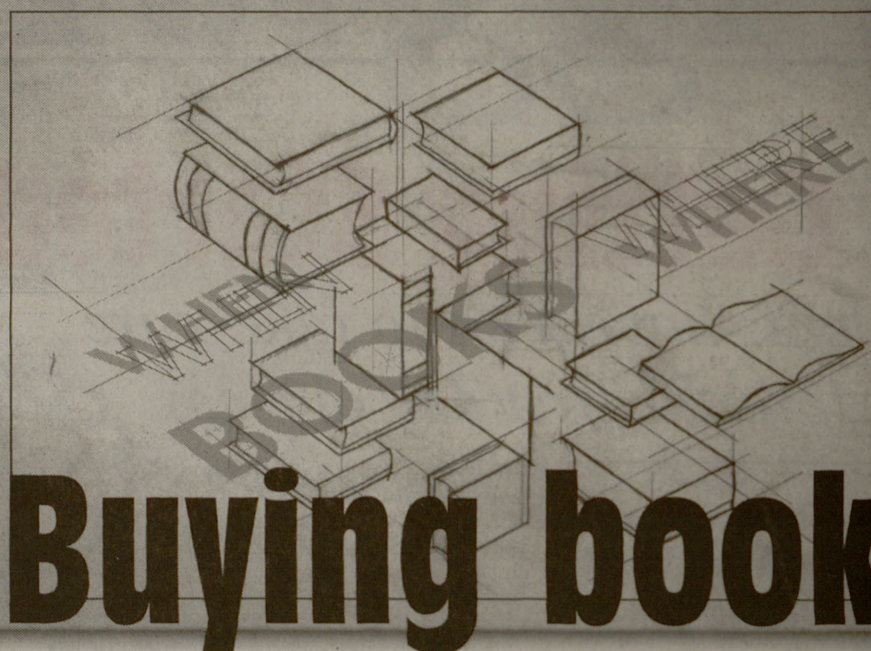
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Buying books

Several options are available to students when purchasing textbooks.

By DINO RAMOS
THE BATTALION

The time has come for Texas A&M students to haul their excess baggage up to their dorms, stand in long lines for tuition payments and, of course, buy overpriced books for their classes.

Many students choose different methods for the time, place and reason to purchase their books for the semester. With the Internet in the mainstream, there are now an abundance of Websites to order books from, and a majority of the time, one can find the book they need. Several Websites offer a variety of books for college courses. Also, many students sell their old books to other students to get pocket money for themselves.

Most students prefer buying used books to avoid sky-high prices.

"I know it sounds tedious, but I go out of my way to find used books to save all the money I can," said Darius Le, a junior biomedical science major. "It takes me the whole day to search for the cheapest prices at Loupot's, Rother's and the MSC Bookstore."

While many students put their books on reserve to get prepared for the semester, some students prefer to wait until after the first couple of days of school to buy their books.

"I usually buy my books the second week of class and wait to see what the professors say about the books we will be using in class," said Victoria McNamara, a senior wildlife and fisheries major. "I never reserve books because that is pointless; there is no need to reserve your education. You may be reserving books that you may not even need, and you are basically wasting money and time."

Miraculously, some students can go without books for the entire semester. Many professors place more emphasis on their lecture notes, and

the textbook is used as supplemental material. Other professors' lectures are either solely or solely based on textbook material; therefore, many students find that buying textbooks is not necessary.

"I have been at Texas A&M for four years, and in those four years, I probably have bought a total of three books," said Chun King Chin, a senior elementary education major. "Without books, I still manage to maintain a very reasonable GPR."

Although some students can go without books, the need for books highly depends on the students' major.

"Even though I don't buy books as often as other students, I think that if I was an English History major, it would be a totally different story, and I would be buying books by the truckload," Chin said.

Buying books seems like more of a mission than a task. While some students have no preference about new or used books, many find it difficult to find any books at all.

"I do not waste my time hunting and searching for books," said Tasha Joseph, a senior microbiology major. "If I find a book that I need for class, I just buy it whether it is new or used because I might not find it anywhere else."

With so many bookstores catering to the needs of the college students, it should be inevitable that one can find any book they need. Although many bookstores infest College Station, many students still have problems finding to find that one book that they need.

"Sometimes it really gets annoying going from Rother's to Loupot's to the MSC trying to find that one rare book that's like an endangered species," said Joanna Cruz, a junior computer science major. "But when I do finally find that book, it's like I just found a million dollars; a huge weight is lifted off my shoulders."

See BOOKS on page 2B



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