



Book Buyback Conditions

Several factors affect the price you will receive.

- ▶ Whether or not the book has been readopted for the upcoming semester
- ▶ New editions by the publisher
- ▶ The condition of the book
- ▶ The national demand for the book
- ▶ The current inventory on hand

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SOURCE: TRADITIONS BOOKSTORE

Buyback changes proposed

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M Student Government Association members are trying to help students get more money back for their used books by encouraging professors to turn in their book orders before final exams.

Students can receive up to 50 percent of the new price of a book during textbook buyback if the professor has specified that the book will be used again for the following semester.

If a professor has not informed bookstores whether or not the book will be used again, students can only receive up to 10 percent back for the book.

Student senator Scott Smith, a senior chemical engineering

major, informed deans, department heads and professors of the problem and asked for their help during dead week in May.

"When tuition is raised 21 percent in a single semester, you've got to look to these things to find new ways to save students' money," said Smith, the student services chair for the Student Senate.

Joanna Koliba, assistant manager of the MSC Bookstore, said professors should turn in their orders before buyback goes into full swing so that students can get up to 50 percent back.

"The sooner they turn in an adoption, the sooner we can begin to pay 50 percent for the book," Koliba said.

Professors' textbook adoption records, or a list of books

that will be used the following semester, are first sent to the MSC Bookstore. Representatives from off-campus bookstores can then get a copy from the MSC.

Shri Parchure, Loupout's Bookstores general manager, said professors not turning their book orders in on time are not the only reason that students would not get 50 percent back for their used books.

Buyback amounts also depend on how many books the store needs and the timing of the buyback. Some students don't sell their books back until after the last day of finals, and by that time, no more books are needed, Parchure said.

Parchure said 70 to 75 percent of professors turn their

book requests in before finals.

"There are some professors who are lazy," Parchure said. "But for a lot of classes, they have not decided who is going to teach the class."

In the future, Student Government Association members will encourage deans and department heads to assign classes to instructors earlier, Smith said.

He said assigning classes earlier would reduce the amount of book orders that are turned in late because it is unknown who is teaching the class.

Student Government Association members would also like for deans to encourage faculty members to turn in adoption records before full-swing

See Buyback on page 2

Gates honors newly admitted S. Texas Aggies

By Shawn Millender
THE BATTALION



A&M President Robert M. Gates attended a banquet Monday in Brownsville to honor south Texas high school seniors who will attend A&M in the fall.

The banquet, hosted by the Brownsville A&M Club, was a send-off for students from five area counties who have been admitted to A&M.

Rachel Hernandez, an administrator for the Brownsville Independent School District, was glad to have Gates in town for the banquet.

"The banquet was wonderful," Hernandez said. "We had about 150 people there — every table was full."

Gates attended a reception hosted by Brownsville ISD Assistant Superintendent Johnny Pineda before the banquet hosted by the Brownsville A&M Club.

"We're delighted to have him," Pineda said. "The public should thank him down here. The Brownsville ISD has enjoyed a great relationship with A&M with Gates at the helm."

Pineda said student interest in attending A&M has spiked recently due to intensified recruitment of Rio Grande Valley students.

"In the last couple of years, A&M has done a really great job down here because of its president and alumni foundation. We are really fortunate to have them down here," Pineda said.

"We're real excited here. Any time Dr. Gates and his crew comes down it's a reason to celebrate, but this year we have so many kids to recognize," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said that Brownsville ISD sent 78 applications to A&M for the fall and will be sending at least 40 students in August.

"When we first started this we had 25 people show up, but this year it has grown to over 150," Hernandez said.

The Brownsville ISD will send the valedictorians from two of its five high schools to A&M as well as one salutatorian.

"I like to think we send our best and brightest to A&M," Hernandez said.

Frank Ashley, assistant provost for enrollment, will accompany Gates on the trip along with seven other delegates.

Ashley said last year's event was cancelled due to travel difficulties brought on by inclement weather.

See Gates on page 2

Furry friends



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Christine Veade, a senior biomedical science major, gives Jessica, a calico cat, and Chip, a terrier mix, attention at the Stevenson Companion Animal Life-Care Center.

The Center, which currently houses eight cats and 12 dogs, is in the process of adding a new wing that will make room for more animals and two student residents.

Supreme Court keeps 'under God' in pledge

By Anne Gearan
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday allowed millions of schoolchildren to keep affirming loyalty to one nation "under God" but dodged the underlying question of whether the Pledge of Allegiance is an unconstitutional blending of church and state.

The ruling overturned a lower court decision that the religious reference made the pledge unconstitutional in public schools. But the decision did so on technical grounds, ruling the man who brought the case on behalf of his 10-year-old daughter could not legally represent her.

It was an anticlimactic end to an emotion-

al high court showdown over God in the public schools and in public life. It also neutralizes what might have been a potent election-year political issue in which the Bush administration argued strongly that the reference to God should remain part of the pledge.

The outcome does not prevent a future court challenge over the same issue, however, and both defenders and opponents of the current wording predicted that fight will come quickly.

For now, five justices said the court could not rule on the case because California atheist Michael Newdow does not have full custody of his daughter.

"When hard questions of domestic relations are sure to affect the outcome, the pru-

dent course is for the federal court to stay its hand rather than reach out to resolve a weighty question of federal constitutional law," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the majority.

Newdow, who has fought a protracted custody battle with the girl's mother, was angered by the decision and the basis for it.

"She spends 10 days a month with me," he said. "The suggestion that I don't have sufficient custody is just incredible."

Three other justices went along with the outcome, but seemed to accuse the majority of using Newdow's legal standing as a fig leaf to avoid the harder constitutional issue. The three, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist and

See Court on page 6

Survey finds U.S. gas prices drop for first time this year

By Paul Chavez
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOS ANGELES — A boost in gasoline production and a dip in oil prices has led to this year's first nationwide drop in gas prices, an industry analyst said.

The weighted national average price for all three grades of gasoline fell 6 1/2 cents to \$2.04 per gallon Friday after rising more than 59 cents since mid-December, analyst Erly Lundberg, who publishes the semi-monthly Lundberg Survey, said Sunday. The survey regularly polls nearly 8,000 gas stations across the United States.

The average price for all grades on the last survey May 21 was slightly above \$2.10 per gallon.

Crude oil prices, which have been hovering above \$40 a barrel in recent weeks, closed last week at \$38.45 a barrel, Lundberg said.

The lower oil prices can be attributed to oil production above the official quota set by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, and OPEC's recent announcement that it would increase production this summer to stabilize prices, Lundberg said.

See Gas on page 2

Texas A&M student killed in car crash

By Natalie Younts
THE BATTALION

Kathryn Marie McLellan, a senior nutrition major at Texas A&M, was killed in a car crash after her Jeep Grand Cherokee collided with a pickup truck.

McLellan was killed on U.S. 77 near Victoria while driving to her hometown, Corpus Christi, for a doctor's appointment Wednesday afternoon.

Twenty-two-year-old McLellan was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She was also involved with Young Life, a non-profit organization whose mission is to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them grow in their faith.

Kelli Morris, a senior early childhood education major and president of the Pi Beta Phi sorority, said that Katie was a person who had strong Christian val-

ues and would be missed very much.

"It's shocking when someone this close to you and someone this young passes," Morris said. "We're missing a friend."

Morris said she hopes that the Aggie family will pray for Katie's family during this time of grief.

McLellan graduated from Carroll High School in Corpus Christi, where she participated in sports and was in the National Honor Society.

McLellan is survived by her parents, Mike and Donna McLellan, her brother Keith McLellan, and grandparents Don and Joyce DeKock and John and Marie McLellan.

The family is accepting donations to the Katie McLellan Young Life Camp Fund. Donations can be sent to Frost Bank, attention Alan Wilson, P.O. Box 749, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78403-0749.