

Textbook trauma

by Roberta Franchuk

Buying textbooks can be a major source of trauma for students, but a few simple techniques and a little background knowledge can make the ordeal a lot easier.

Texts can be purchased new or used. There are many ways to obtain used books, a few of which will be dealt with later. New texts, however, are almost exclusively available at the U of A Bookstore.

NEW TEXTS:

The Bookstore stocks the texts ordered by profs for their courses. A list of texts by course is available in the store, as well as at Cameron Library.

Make sure you know the course name, section number, text title, edition, and author before you venture into the bookstore. Your goal is to spend as little time as possible wandering around in the crowd.

Lineups at the store are truly horrendous for the first two weeks of classes. So either buy early (before classes start, if you are positive you know what you'll need) or after the lineups have died down. If you need lab manuals or novels right away, budget at least one hour or so for long lineups.

A money-saving hint: don't buy your school supplies in the Bookstore. Although the Bookstore is ordered by the university's board of governors to sell texts at break-even costs, the bookstore makes a profit on souvenirs and school supplies such as binders and pens. So, unless you absolutely have to have all your binders embossed with the U of A logo, you can get most of the same general merchandise cheaper at other stationery stores. However, specialized equipment, such as dissecting kits, may be easier to buy at the bookstore.

It is very important to keep your receipts. All books can be returned until September 30 with a receipt. If you drop a class after September 30, you may return your text to the bookstore, providing it is in good condition and you present both your receipt and a copy of your course withdrawal form.

USED TEXTS:

Buying used books is a tremendous money-saver. Texts that sell for \$50 new can often be obtained for \$20 used. The trick, of course, is to find the book.

The first place you can look is to other students. Notices for texts for sale spring up all around the campus at the beginning of every term. If you are in first or second year, you can probably buy almost all of your books used. The more specialized your program, the harder it will be to find books.

On campus, the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship runs a used book exchange at the beginning of each term. This is a great place

to unload your old texts and pick up new ones. The first term exchange will be accepting books for sale Sept. 8, 9, and 12. The sale will run Sept. 13, 14, and 15, with a half price sale Sept. 21. The exchange is held in Room 034 SUB, from 10:15 to 4:15. Lineups are atrocious, so budget lots of time.

Close to the university, several bookstores carry university texts and novels. Quality and prices vary widely, so shop around.

A few local stores worth investigating:

The Edmonton Bookstore (109 Street and 86 Avenue) carries a good, well-organized selection of texts and novels. *The Antiquarian Bookstore* and the *Wee Book Inn* (both on Whyte Avenue and 103 Street) have a quickly-changing stock of novels. *Strathcona Books* (104 Street and Whyte) is both organized and fairly well-stocked. *F. Speur Books* (Whyte and 108 Street) has a varied selection of novels. Other bookstores may also be worth a look around. If you plan to buy a used text,

be on the lookout for a few important points. First, the condition of the book. You don't want to buy a book from a highlighter-happy student who turned the pages into a rainbow of colors. Check for clean pages and intact bindings.

Second, price. The same text may be found used for anywhere from \$10 to almost-as-much-as-new. The condition of the book and the greed of the seller set the price. Be aware.

Third, edition. Most professors change editions almost from year to year, ostensibly to keep up with fast-changing information. What it means to students is that you are almost forced to buy your text new. There is, however, a way around this. Most new editions change little except for the odd chapter or the types of assignment questions. An older edition will usually be quite serviceable for most uses, and if a newer edition is needed occasionally, it can be checked out of the reserve room at Cameron Library for periods of two hours, overnight, or weekends.

"Be a buddy"

Alberta International is inviting University students to "be a buddy" to fellow students from the Peoples' Republic of China.

"We're looking for people who are interested in helping someone from a far away place get to know the city better," said Leslie Crawford, a U of A secondary education graduate student.

Starting its second year on the U of A campus, the program offers a rare "cross-cultural exchange," said Crawford.

U of A students are paired up with an exchange student from China on the basis of similar educational backgrounds and interests.

"We're looking for people who will have the time to share a cup of coffee, or go to a movie, walk around campus, or just talk on the phone," said Crawford, noting that minimum contact would be twice a month.

Besides starting new friendships and exposing students to a cultural exchange, Crawford added that the "Be a Buddy" program can boost grade point averages. Surveys have shown that GPAs between students involved in the program have generally increased.

Alberta International is still accepting applications for about thirty students. For further information, contact Leslie Crawford at 433-9885 before September 14.

Grapevine

The fraternity brothers from **Phi Gamma Delta** will be strapping on their running shoes and accepting their last rites Sunday morning for their eighth annual Relay Run to Red Deer. About thirty-four of the brothers will take to the asphalt at 7 am, just past Gateway Park on Calgary Trail. When the relay reaches Red Deer, the Phi Gamma Delta chapter from Calgary will take up the remainder of the run to Calgary. Phi Gamma Deltas will be scouting the campus for pledges and donations during introduction week. All proceeds will go towards the Terry Fox Fund for Cancer Research.



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