Monday In-Depth

Costs.

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we can to keep the prices low-

er." Williams said. The cheapest books around

By discounting books, in creasing the number of available used books and offering the Guaranteed Book Program, students are able to get books at a cheaper price than they might find at other campuses.

'Currently we sell books at an 11 percent discount, and last year that totaled \$613.000." said Chris Standish, textbook manager at the University Bookstore

Of 2,800 bookstores in the country, less than 50 give discounts to students.

Because the Bookstore is not owned by the University, there is a little more flexibility which enables them to provide such a substantial discount, Williams

"We are solid financially and fiscally responsible and we can offer a good discount." Williams said. "But many people do not really have a perspective of how significant that is.

"It's a fact, books are expensive." Standish said. "But many people still think we gouge them, but this isn't true.

'We don't mark up the book before the discount. It is based on the initial price of the book." he said

By increasing the number of used books available, the Bookstore allows students to get the books they need at a substantially lower price. Standish said

Buying back is a service

Book buy-backs at the end of the term is one way the Bookstore gets used books that future students need that also gives students money back for books they no longer can use. Standish said.

You have a book, we have a need. We don't make a profit but we offer a service." Williams said. "By exchanging your book for money we can have more used books available to students.

There is a higher margin of profit through used books and students can get the books they need for less money. Standish said. "The money we make goes back to buy other books that will serve other student needs," he said.

In the last 70 years, the Book-



Book buy-backs are an important service offered by the University Bookstore - but the used book market also drives up the cost of new texts.

store has been recognized as one of the most progressive stores in the country, which is highlighted by the student board of directors. Williams

The unique structure of the student board of directors for the Bookstore assures student protection and helps the store see and respond to the student's needs. Williams said. The student directors are compelled and obligated to protect the students, and they are very sincere and serious about that responsibility, he added.

Another problem the Book store has to cope with is a book shortage. Sometimes professors do not order enough, the books don't come in time or more students than anticipated register for a class, making the availability of books scarce.

The Guaranteed Book Program states that if the instructor orders the books in time, the Bookstore will be responsible for getting the books or making photocopies of the material available at no expense to the student. This service also increases the flow of used books at the end of the term and the buy-back cycle continues. Standish said.

The University Bookstore is a non-profit organization designed to serve the students. and the money earned goes back into overhead and product buying. Williams said.

'We're all one store and we're in it all together. The greeting cards and other departments help to subsidize the textbooks, allowing us to be more of a service to students. Williams said

"Because the Bookstore is designed to serve students and is held directly responsible by the student board of directors. discount programs can be offered and book prices can be kept down a little more without having to worry a lot about

profit," Williams said.



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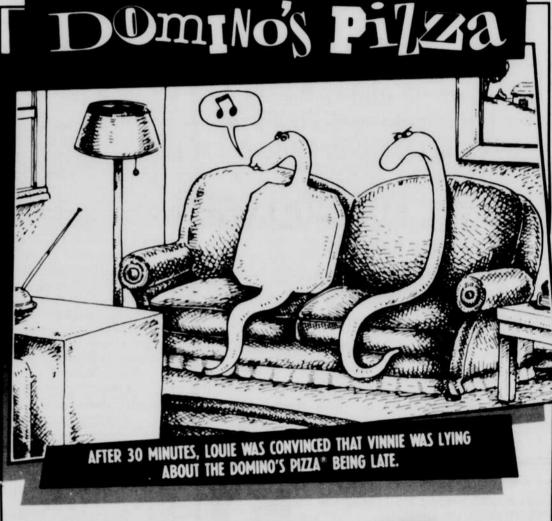
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