

Books: ASUO to sponsor book swap

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publishers of textbooks must raise prices to keep profits high. As prices go up, it increases the demand for used books, and publishers must raise prices again.

"It's a spiraling market, and it keeps getting more and more expensive to get the books you need," Standish said.

"It's not fair because we're college students, and we don't have much money," said University senior Amy Hoffman. Hoffman said she keeps her books rather than reselling them because of the little money she receives.

Despite the high prices, producing textbooks is often inexpensive for publishers because professors who produce them do so as part of their job, said Janet

Wasko, a journalism professor who specializes in media economics.

Professor William Ryan, who wrote a textbook he uses in a journalism class, said textbook authors get paid much less than authors of other types of books.

"I could flip burgers and probably make more money than the royalties I get when you weigh in how much time it takes to write a textbook," he said.

Wasko said professors are often pushed to update their textbooks so the publisher can issue a new edition — another way publishers keep profits rolling in.

Standish said the increasing price of textbooks is getting out of control.

"Price is a significant issue be-

cause it's restricting access to information, and that's not good," he said. Standish recommends holding onto books until the class is taught again to receive the maximum amount.

"The money I spend on books is too much," said Nik Wald. "They're priced so high, it makes it tough to come up with that kind of cash."

In an effort to eliminate the middle man, the ASUO is sponsoring a student book swap in the EMU during Finals Week, said ASUO outreach director Wylie Chen.

"It's worked amazingly well in the past because students can sell their books for more and pay less for new ones," he said.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Guatemalan activists to visit law school

The University School of Law will host Guatemalan human rights activist Carmen Bejarano today at noon in Grayson 128. In addition to Bejarano, a

torture survivor will speak as part of a conference to educate the public on the violence associated with a 37-year-old Guatemalan civil war. Bejarano, a human rights activist who practices law for the Catholic church in Guatemala, and her

husband will speak about their work.

The conference is open to the public and is sponsored by Amigos de los Sobrevivientes Inc., a local organization that provides support to survivors of torture.

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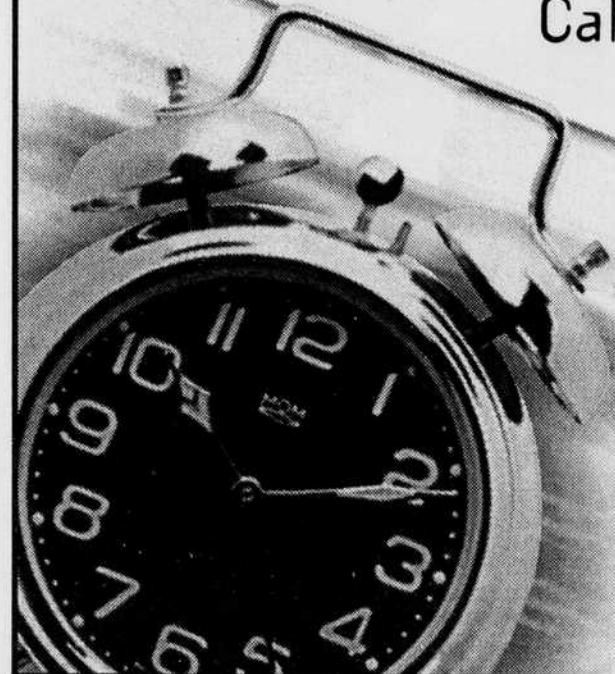
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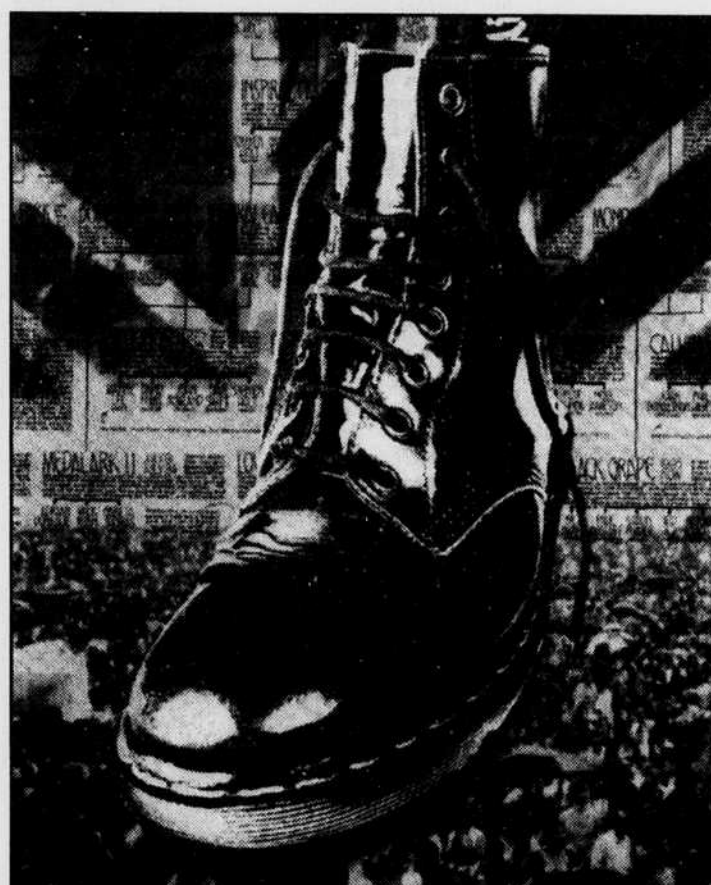
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