



Textbooks authored by the University's professors — many of which yield royalties for the writers — are assigned in a broad range of University departments. **Lauren Wimer** Photographer

DILEMMA

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she said. "I think it's a valid criticism. I sort of signaled the students that it's not the reason I was using the book."

Johnson said he's had colleagues who, like Sheehan, do the "most conservative and safe thing" by not accepting royalties for their books. Johnson himself assigned reading that he contributed to as an author, but in his case he used a college press that doesn't charge for use of the material and pays no royalties.

"I haven't had to deal with that moral dilemma," he said.

Biology Professor Emeritus Frank Stahl authored a book about genetics, which he used for 12 years. He said that in order to avoid the question of accepting royalties, he had it printed by the campus press and only charged enough to cover publishing expenses.

"I think that's the ideal way for a professor to publish a book for his course," he said. "It strikes me as the obvious thing to do. I don't know why professors in general wouldn't do what I do."

Journalism Professor Kyu Youm was highly critical of professors who receive royalties on the textbooks they assign to students.

"I think it's professionally unethical,

and that kind of thing should not be condoned, unless his textbook is the best in the whole world," he said. "Some professors are using their textbooks because they are ego-inflated."

Youm said teachers should distribute their royalties to students, especially when an instructor collects money from a book assigned to as many as 400 of his or her students. He said professors owe students an explanation as to why their book is used, especially when the cost is in the \$100-dollar range. Youm himself worked on a text he assigned to his class, but he said he ensured it was the most affordable book available.

Still, other professors don't have to worry about the question of accepting royalties — they simply don't have wads of cash flying at them.

Associate Journalism Professor Tom Wheeler wrote a book for a class he teaches on manipulating media photos, but he doesn't expect to get rich from its publication because the subject is a relatively new field.

"This is not the kind of book that's going to be widely adopted in every journalism school," Wheeler said.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Lorraine Davis echoed those same sentiments, adding she wasn't concerned that professors may collect royalties.

"Some people believe that professors

should not assign their own textbooks because of the royalties that are attached to it," she said. "Those are not usually significant."

Students have conflicting perspectives on the practice.

"The ones that have their royalties go to a foundation I don't mind," sophomore Nicole Leseney said. "But the ones that have the royalties go back to them is a rather large conflict of interest."

Dale Fishel, a senior studying environmental studies, said there is no guarantee to students that the book is worth the price when professors assign their own textbooks.

"I think if they put us in a position where we have to buy their books they ought to be reasonably priced," he said.

Brian Swarts, a graduate student of international studies, said he's never had a professor at the University assign their own text, but he's known teachers at universities who have. He said it doesn't matter who the author is if the textbook is a relevant, quality book.

"I think it's part of their job," he said. "I don't think just because they make money off of it, it becomes unethical."

Contact the people/culture/faith reporter at jaredpaben@dailyemerald.com.

GADGETS

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digital audio player that records up to 36 hours in real time, has 16 hours of battery life and can store more than 600 hours of digital music. Besides a backlit remote control, Trist said the best part about the player is the microphone port, which he plans to use for recording live concerts.

"It's absolutely the best gift I got in a while," he said. "Plus I get to share the music with friends."

With a 20 GB hard drive, the Iriver IHP-120 can make quick USB transfers to Macs and PCs, has a built-in FM tuner and can be found at <http://www.mp3mall.net> for the sale price of \$399.99.

Digital bartenders and recorders aside, digital cameras have also seen a recent rise in popularity as consumers opt for more file storage, less blurry pictures and no cost for film development.

Hiilawe Mitchell worked as a sales representative at Dot Dotson's during the holiday break. Located at 1668 Willamette St., the camera store sold almost twice as many

digital cameras this Christmas compared to last year, Mitchell said.

"We really couldn't keep them on the shelves," she said.

One of the most popular cameras sold at Dot Dotson's this Christmas was the Canon A80, a well-made, compact digital device with 4 megapixels for less than \$400, Mitchell said. Besides being a relatively inexpensive name brand, the Canon A80 is also more ideal for frequent travelers because it takes AA batteries, she said.

Although other models and brands proved popular over the holidays, Mitchell said the Canon also sold the most because it remained well-stocked. If other camera companies had been able to keep up with demand, Mitchell said, other digital models would have sold more as well.

"It's changing the face of photography as we know it," she said of the recent vogue in digital photography. "And prices of digital cameras are going down."

Contact the business/science/technology reporter at caronalarab@dailyemerald.com.

CAMPUS BUZZ

Thursday

Chamber Music Series, 8 p.m., Beall Concert Hall. Musici de Montreal will perform, and music Professor Robert Hurwitz will give a pre-concert talk at 7:15 p.m. in Room 198.

Sustainability Practices Workshop, today through Friday, 9:30 a.m., Room 130, Baker Downtown Center South Building.

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