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High-tech innovations set for bookstore

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Staff Writer

Buying texts online next term and new high-tech tools are part of what the bookstore is offering to help students get their books quickly and save them time.

In addition, employees have started stocking shelves in preparation for sales of winter term texts that will be available starting Dec. 11.

The bookstore will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. during winter break except for Christmas Day, Dec. 26, and New Year's Day. Bookstore Director, and President of the National Association of College Bookstores (NACB), David Holcomb, suggests shopping in the first week of January to beat the crowds.

"Ideally the first three days is a good time to buy texts," said Holcomb. "We will have five registers going to make it a faster experience. To me, your time is very important."

The bookstore will begin to buy back books during finals week. Holcomb expressed that students can get up to 50 percent back on texts and he hopes to have more used books available so students

have an affordable choice next term.

"We are being very aggressive at getting as many books as possible back from students," said Holcomb. "If we can offer used books it would help make the educational experience a little easier."

Holmes, who is new this year at Clackamas, came here from Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, CA. According to Holmes, he continues to work at a national level looking at book issues, meeting with presidents of publication houses and trying to establish a partnership with them. He's also involved in student watch research that examines student buying

habits and national trends so he can help the bookstore better represent student needs.

E-commerce is the newest challenge for the bookstore that Holmes is working hard to implement this year. He is hoping that students will be able to buy texts online starting winter term.

"There are a lot of technical reasons why it may not be up and running," expressed Holmes. "Students should check during the holi-

days but we will definitely have that sight up and running by spring term."

The web site for buying texts is www.ccc.books.com. The online sight is convenient for distance learning students and students who live out of town, according to Holmes. Once books are ordered, students should receive their texts within 48 hours. There will be a small shipping charge. He also encourages any students to check out the service and give feedback so it can be perfected to meet student needs.

A new technological addition to the bookstore this year is a hand held cash register, which communicates live through a radio frequency broadcast to the main computer system. It's the size of a palm pilot and connects to a small unit that prints receipts. With this device, the backroom process for e-commerce will go much quicker, according to Holmes. He also hopes to use it to do sales out in front of the bookstore, or at other campus sites, to reduce the crowds in the bookstore.

"It's a good system, (but) it's complicated," expressed Holmes. "We're having to upgrade the computer system."

A backpack check-in table will also be available winter term to guarantee that students' belongings will be safe. If students buy texts before the first week of school, there are lockers available

We are looking at everything... and trying to make this a better experience for the students.

David Holcomb
Bookstore Director



JENNY CHAVEZ / Clackamas Print

College Bookstore Director David Holcomb demonstrates the new, palm sized cash registers that will be used for on-line purchases and in Clackamas' alternative campus purchase sites.

in front of the bookstore, inside McLoughlin Hall. According to Holmes, there were also concerns about violating the fire marshal's safety codes because of excessive amounts of book bags piled in front

of the bookstore entrance.

"We think this is a great service," said Holmes. "We are looking at everything in here and trying to make this a better experience for the student."

Christmas is in the air



JENNY CHAVEZ / Clackamas Print

Students, faculty and campus visitors came to enjoy the Associated Student Government (ASG)-sponsored Craft Fair held in the Skylight dining room Monday and Tuesday. Holiday wreaths, homemade candles, soaps, ponchos, blankets and jewelry were just some of the creative crafts available for shoppers to purchase.

How Santa Claus came to be



MAGGIE JIRASEK
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A long time ago, a bishop named Nicholas lived in what is now known as the country of Turkey. Stories about him tell us that he was a friendly man, helping out children who were in need. Many years after his death, he was made a saint and he became the patron saint of children.

Today, Dec. 6, is the date of Nicholas' death, and is being remembered in many parts of Europe. Children put out their shoes and stockings Dec. 5, believing that Saint Nicholas will visit them during the night and leave behind little gifts as well as candy.

Dressed as a bishop, wearing a red or white robe and a tall pointed

hat, Nicholas visits towns and cities, leads parades, talks to children and often hands out small gifts. He is accompanied by his loyal helper, who is known as "Black Peter" in the Netherlands, "Knecht Ruprecht" in Germany, "Pere Fouettard" in France and "Hoesacker" in Luxembourg.

All children love Saint Nicholas, but his helper gives them quite a fright, since he is the one keeping track of who was good and who was naughty. Naughty children may even be carried away in the helper's bag until they learn to be good.

Dutch settlers in America continued to celebrate Saint Nicholas Day by giving him the name Sinterklaas, which later became Santa Claus.

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