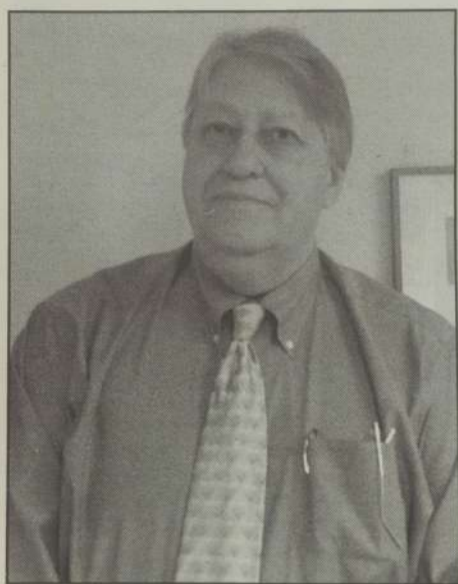


Book rentals to be offered in fall

Kenton Benfield
The Clackamas Print

At the beginning of every term, students face the daunting prospect of paying for it



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all. The second largest cost for the average student, after tuition, is represented by the textbooks that accompany most classes. In fact, textbook prices have ratcheted up over the years, generally faster than inflation.

For Bookstore Director David Holcomb, this is not news.

"Across the United States, there has been a lot of conversation and concern about textbook prices," Holcomb said.

A possible solution to these expenses is for college bookstores to offer a textbook rental program — similar to a library but not free — to help cut costs for students.

Soon, Clackamas

will have its own rental program, to be piloted Fall Term of 2008.

"That's great, actually," said student Mike Takeyama. "It helps those of [us] that have to pay our way."

A rental program would allow a student to pay a fraction of a book's cost — roughly 35 percent — for an entire term and then return it at the term's end. If the student wanted to keep the book, then he or she would be charged the remaining 65 percent. The same thing would happen if he or she never returned the book or did so but had damaged it significantly.

The idea has been under investigation since last fall, but only recently did the proposal go before the textbook committee and, finally, the College Council. The initial program will not be available for all book titles, but rather about 10 to 15 options will be offered, spanning multiple classes, as decided by the teaching faculty.

Ideally, the book candi-

dates for the program would consist of the more expensive and popular titles that tend to remain in their current edition for at least two years. As book editions are constantly updated, keeping up a rentable stock would become cost-prohibitive.

Also, not all titles would be eligible, such as tear-out workbooks and books with supplemental material such as CD-ROM disks, if the course required those extras.

While it may not seem obvious, there are some major logistical hurdles to jump before the program can be expanded to include the majority of titles.

"The challenge to starting a brand new rental program is for somebody like us ... we estimate that it would cost \$3 million to start a complete, full-blown rental program," Holcomb said.

This amount is the price of the inventory that would need to be on-hand to support every title. Not only must the bookstore procure a new computer

software tracking system, the simple need for storage space to store the books would require a doubling of the current floor space.

These constraints are feasible, and as such, the program will be limited to a trial period or market for now. This pilot is slated to last for two years after which a further review will conceivably be made.

Although the Associated Student Government book exchange and text can be purchased online at an advantage to the rental program is that students have to worry about seeing the books later. Further, buying online can be unpredictable and results due to shipping.

With the coming rental program, students can save approximately 50 percent of textbook costs by receiving their books free on the spot.

Now it may be possible to afford to eat something besides Top Ramen for

TUTORS: Positions are open in all tutoring departments, math hit the hardest

Continued from TUTORS, Page 1

The rift between tutors and those who require their aid is the product of an increase in tutor requests and a slight decrease in applications for tutoring jobs, along with the fact that many former tutors have recently moved on to four-year universities.

At \$9 an hour, some tutors work in between classes in order to make extra money, and not enough can work the hours necessary to help all of the individuals in need.

Another department that has not escaped the shortage unscathed is the Writing Center, the campus' only resource for writing tutors.

According to Carol Burnell, an English instructor and the Writing Center coordinator,

the Writing Center is frequently manned by just one person.

Too often time slots throughout the day are unavailable to students due to the lack of tutors and a budget that won't allow more people to be hired as part-time staff.

The result, Burnell said, is only 20 hours of available tutoring time per week.

Burnell believes that with just an extra 10 hours per week, the department could meet students' needs and even offer some online or evening sessions.

Unfortunately, this would require double the current budget for part-time staff, and with budget cuts taking place throughout the



James Morris, center, carefully surveys a packed math tutoring lab.

school, this is not a likely scenario for the near future.

Tutoring at Clackamas is open to nearly every subject and is always free. All a student has to do, for any area besides writing, is go to the tutoring services department — room 141 in the Community Center — and speak with Tutoring Services Specialist Adam Kriss. Kriss will give the student a card for his or her instructor to sign. Then, he or she will be set up with a tutor.

The Writing Center is located in room 240, on the second floor of Barlow

Hall. Students wishing to acquire a tutor should stop by and sign up.

For further information regarding the Writing Center, Burnell can be reached at 5188.

To become a tutor in the Writing Center, a student must contact an English instructor in the college from whom he or she is taking the class. The instructor must acknowledge the student passed the course with a "B."

The same process is necessary to become a tutor for another subject but with the consent of an instructor who works in the appropriate department.

With no clear end in sight, students on the hunt for academic aid will be forced for themselves in some situations if they are willing to be patient, the Writing Center says.

Proof of citizenship needed for driver's license

The illegal immigration issue simmered just below the surface Monday as the Oregon Senate approved a bill to require proof of legal U.S. residence to get a driver's license in the state.

The measure was sent to the House on a 23-7 vote after House members said Oregon's loose rules have made the state a target for citizens who seek to obtain identification cards for "non-immigration" purposes.

Several senators who voted "no" said the requirement would create hardships for many of the state's undocumented workers who force them to drive unlicensed with no insurance.

The measure would largely place into state statutes tight identification requirements that are included in an executive order by Gov. Ted Kulongoski that went into effect last week.

Under those requirements, people seeking to obtain, renew or replace an existing license are required to provide a Social Security number or other proof of legal residence that can be verified by the state Driver and Motor Vehicle Services Division.

Additionally, immigrants must show they have a current visa to be able to get a temporary license that's valid only as long as the visa is valid.

- The Associated Press

Students and staff are invited to stop by the cafe to decorate a heart shaped sugar cookie on Valentine's Day. The cookies are yours to keep or share with someone special!

Starting at 10:30am - limit one per person - while supply lasts

Look for other "sweetheart deals" throughout the cafe all week.

The Cougar Cafe
Eat. Learn. Live.

Event Catering Available

M - Th: 7:30AM to 7:30 PM
Friday: 7:30AM to 2:30 PM