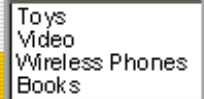


Friday February 18, 2005



- [Front Page](#)
- [News](#)
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- [Opinion](#)
- [Hornet Blog](#)
- [Hornet Links](#)
- [Online Exclusive](#)
- [Features](#)
- [Sports](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Archives](#)

Search News [options](#)

All That We're Saying is Give Us a Fair Price

Staff Editorial
February 16, 2005

Book for first class = \$70.00.
 Book for second class = \$50.00.
 Two books needed for third class = \$15.00 plus \$48.00.
 Total book costs plus approximate tax = \$211.36.
 Total money for buyback of books = \$81.28.
 Frustration and the feeling of being ripped off= priceless.

It's no new fact that the cost of textbooks rise every year, mainly from publishers producing new editions, CD-ROMs and bonus features such as online help.

Yet the buyback value of the same books seems to decrease each year. Aside from parking, the cost of books compared to their buyback value is among the most heard complaints from Fullerton College students.

The FC bookstore's website states to give anywhere from 35 percent to 50 percent of the new price of the book when calculating the resell value. However, the college bookstore can subjectively decide books are ineligible for buyback based on highlighting, pen marks and/or wear and tear.

Books are also only bought back based on need for the book.

This means if someone buys a book that happens to get a little wet, you could be looking at very little to virtually no money for your book if that particular buyer decides that it's too damaged to resell.

You could be stuck with a book that has become an old edition because publishers decided to simply change pages numbers, change content, or it's simply not needed for the upcoming semester.

Either way, several of the times, the content of the book itself is practically the same.

With the cost of tuition and cost of living steadily rising, where are students to turn?

While many students settle post flyers displaying books for sale with contact information around campus, there are other alternatives. One option is to resell textbooks to other textbook book stores that offer buyback.

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OPINION

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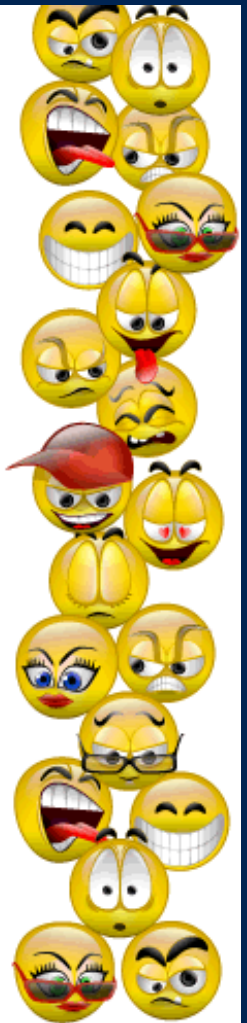
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This includes regular bookstores as well as textbook stores and even some other college bookstores.

Still, what seems to be the growing trend are online book buyback sites.

Multiple sites have appeared for students to post their old textbooks with the advantage of quoting their own price. Many sites charge minimal percentage fees for this middleman service.

Although some find this a hassle, or worry of the book's condition (it being an honor system and all), the advantage lies in asking your own price for the book and oftentimes not having to pay shipping and handling costs.

Besides, how many of us would really suffer from using a textbook that has a few pen marks or highlighter marks in it

Amazon.com and eBay.com are the first that come to mind but with a little web surfing you can find dozens more; half.com, collegebooksdirect.com, campusbooks.com, bookswap.com and a personal favorite, abebooks.com.

Hopefully the advent of so many of these sites will bring more students to start selling their used textbooks online.

Perhaps if more students turn to selling to others or through online sites, book buyback stores will have to start offering more money for books, then we could all benefit from having the money and convenience of reselling our own textbooks and having more money in our pockets at the end of it all.



All That We're Saying is Give Us a Fair Price		
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02/16/2005	Perhaps the best site to use is...	Jason
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