

NEWS

Textbook price triples

by stella kindred

staff writer

The textbook of 10 years ago has tripled in price, leaving the student bewildered, broke and wondering who is taking the profits.

With nearly 14,000 students spending approximately \$150 each for books, that's \$2,400,000.

Who's getting all the money?

Is it the bookstore, the university, the distributor, the publisher, the paper company, unionized book binders, the lumbermill, the authors.....or who?

According to Mike Philp, UNLV bookstore textbook manager, 12 years ago the university gave up operating the bookstore because it

could not "stay out of the red," or make a profit.

Barnes and Noble leased the bookstore concession at UNLV in January 1986 for five years.

"The common (markup) on textbooks is from 20 to 25 percent," Philp said.

The bookstore employs around 15 full- and part-time employees.

Barnes and Noble, itself a publisher, has many divisions.

Its bookstore division includes more than 100 college and university bookstores across the country.

Barnes and Noble also has a used book division which buys back textbooks at less than half the retail price.

It even offers to pick up the teacher's used books

and pay cash on the spot to help develop a friendly rapport with the faculty.

Bookstore employee Marianne Morrison claimed that "book prices increase two times a year." One great difference over the last 10 years, she added, is that a much smaller selection of books is available.

According to Morrison, "Books go out of print in six months."

Ten years ago the books in print index would list books for 15 years.

Nowadays, Morrison said, if a new edition is not published, it goes "Out of Print" and becomes difficult to acquire after one year.

So, in addition to higher prices, the selection is smaller.

UNLV plans to purchase condos for students who are married

by rob hill

staff writer

UNLV officials are working to acquire an apartment complex near the campus to use for married student housing, said UNLV President Robert Maxson.

Maxson said there is a specific apartment complex being considered, but he elected not to identify the complex until negotiations can take place.

The project is in its early stages, Maxson said, but his plan is to buy the apartment complex with a loan or bonds, then charge rent to pay off the debt.

The rent will be paid by married students using the facility. In essence, the financial arrangements will be similar to those for

the new dormitories. Maxson said the major difference is that the occupants will be married couples.

Maxson said the highest priority for the housing will be graduate students.

Since the number of graduate programs at UNLV is increasing, many out-of-state students are being attracted to Las Vegas.

Dr. Ronald Smith, Dean of the Graduate College, said that married student housing will be an important tool in recruiting top graduate students.

Smith said he is optimistic about the benefits that such housing will provide. Although, he added, married housing is probably a couple of years away.


Married students taking advantage of the housing will have the benefit of less expensive housing close to campus, according to Smith.

"These students will be able to interact with other graduate students more closely because they'll be living in the same area," he said.

Smith said UNLV has 34 graduate programs and approximately 1,000 graduate students and 2,500 additional special graduate students.

Smith said he hopes that married student housing will help round out the university's image.

"With the growing number of students at UNLV, we'll need a residential image to be seen as a major university," he said.



MICHAEL FRANKS

Thursday,
October 15, 8:00 pm

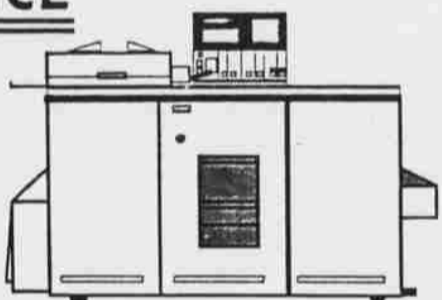
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