

Get rid of old text books and get cash back

By Jodi Cantor
Staff Writer

The end of a semester is a cause for celebration, but to add to the joy of finishing classes there is the extra bonus of being able to sell back despised textbooks for cash.

The Bookstore buys back textbooks year round, but during the week of finals, which is known as the buy-back period, students can get the most money back for their books. During the last buyback period, the bookstore was able to pay out a new record of \$250,000 for books they purchased back from students, according to Rider University's Bookstore manager Joe Judge.

Not all books can be sold back to The Bookstore. Whether or not they are purchased back depends on if they are needed for classes the following semester, but whether or not books were originally bought at The Bookstore does not matter. If a book is needed to be used at Rider, students get paid up to half of the price the bookstore charged for the book, but if the book is not needed it is possible for students to get some money back for a book if it is a current edition.

Judge said he hopes to again pay out as much money as possible during buy-backs. He also said he credits the success of the last buyback period to professors who have been very helpful and sufficient in turning in lists of books they will be requiring for the upcoming semester. Without previous knowledge of what books are needed for the next semester, the bookstore would not be able to buy back as many books, nor would they be able to pay out as much money for the books that they do buy back from students.

"A lot of thanks goes to the faculty for putting orders in on time," said Judge. "We are all in this

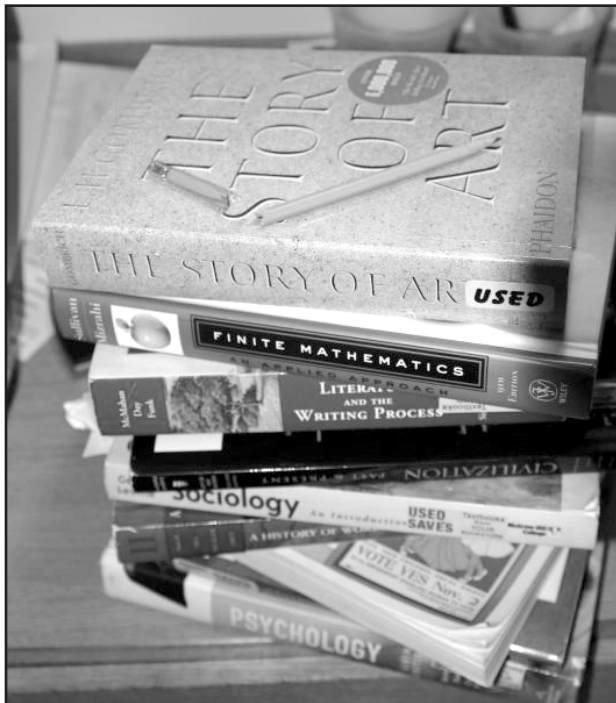


Photo by Hugh Tsung

Selling back used text books is an excellent way for students to regain some of the money lost while purchasing them at the beginning of the school year.

together."

According to Judge, The Bookstore would like to pay out as much money as possible to students not only to give more back to the Rider community, but so that when next semester comes around there are as many used books as possible available to the students.

"[Many books] are re-adopted from fall to spring," he said.

If there are many used books available in the

beginning of a semester when students initially buy their textbooks, the students continue to benefit from the buy back process because they are able to purchase used books, which are always cheaper than new textbooks.

"[I'm] proud of what happened last semester, and I want the same thing [this semester]," Judge said.

As long as professors submit lists of textbooks they will require for the following semester, and students remember their student ID's which are required when they go to sell their books back, everything should go smoothly, and everyone including faculty, students and The Bookstore should be able to benefit from selling back books, according to Judge.

Although selling books back can be beneficial, some students choose not to, said junior Michael Palace.

"It depends on whether or not I think I will be able to use the books later on in life," said Palace.

Meanwhile, some students think the buyback process should be more convenient for students.

"I think that you should be able to get your money as soon as you sell your books back," said sophomore Cathleen Ziegler.

In previous semesters buy-backs have gone successful, but have only reached about \$197,000 in payouts. In regards to the buyback process, Judge said that teachers now know more about it than they did a year ago. The dramatic improvement in the bookstore's figures continues to be achieved due to the cooperation from the professors, he said. As for the upcoming buyback period, Judge said, "expectations are high that we'll pay out top dollar."

BHP delivers a 'poetry slam' dunk

By Jordana Tusman
Staff Writer

Last Thursday, April 15, the Baccalaureate Honors Program (BHP) hosted its first annual Poetry Slam and Splat.

Organized and emceed by Sociology Professor, Dr. James Dickinson, the splat was open to anyone who wanted to participate, the purpose being to provide a forum for students, faculty and staff to recite a favorite or original poem.

"It was great fun being the emcee, as I got to not only run the show and warm things up reading a poem or two, but also enter my own, feeble composition in one of the categories of the competition," said Dickinson.

The slam lasted from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the University Gallery and had an assortment of categories including Best Shortest Poem, Best Symbolist Poem (aka Most Obscure Poem) and Best Celebrating Science Poem.

"I heard about the event from Professor Netzley in a flyer he handed out to our class, and also from Professor Maynard who encouraged me to attend the event," said junior Andre Middleton.

As approximately 30 people took their seats in the audience, or helped themselves to a delicious arrangement of refreshments provided by Mary O'Connor of the ARAMARK catering service, others were busy signing up to enter their poems into the slam.

"The piece I chose to recite was a piece I had written entitled 'Soul Friends,'" said freshman Lea Chappell. "Although I was apprehensive to read something I had written, my best friend, Becky Foulks, inspired me to recite my poem. However, Dr. Maynard was the one who inspired me to participate in the poetry slam itself."

Before entrants presented their poems, Dickinson announced the entrants' names, the poem they were to recite and the category they had entered.

"I was inspired to compose 'Knowledge of You' by the various relationships I have with people and my attempt to understand them, to ultimately understand

myself better," said Middleton.

While some entrants like Middleton chose to recite serious poetry, others like junior Drew Novelli, decided to take a more humorous approach. He entered his poem into the category of Best Poem Adapted From A Novel.

"The name of my piece was 'Ice Ice Baby,'" said Novelli. "I guess my love of late 80's / early 90's rap inspired me to pick this piece. Additionally, I just thought it would be funny."

The slam winners were determined by four qualified judges: professor of philosophy and director of BHP, Dr. Carol Nicholson, professor of English, Dr. Judith Johnston, professor of political science, Dr. Frank Rusciano, and professor of English, Dr. Katherine Maynard.

"This was the first BHP Colloquium for me as the new BHP Director, and so I was really looking forward to it," Nicholson said. "I especially appreciated the seriousness of the students' efforts and the fact that quite a few faculty members got into the spirit of things. It was good to see President Rozanski, Provost Frakt and Associative Provost Castagnera there."

Altogether, there were 14 people who presented poems, all of whom had the option of using a podium and a microphone.

"It was the first time I've ever been to a poetry slam so it was a new experience for me," said freshman Allison Alter. "My English Professor, Dr. Goldie, encouraged me to attend, and I'm glad I did. I had a pleasant time."

"I liked it a lot," said freshman Jamie Bongiorno. "I thought it was put together very nicely. People came prepared. They were talented. I particularly enjoyed Andre Middleton's piece, 'Family Ties.' It was touching. I almost started to cry."

Besides the reading of poetry, there was even a special singing rendition by Professor Emeritus of History, Dr. Charles Richardson, whose version of a Rider fight song was placed under the category of Rider, Mon Amour.

How did the contestants think they did?

"I thought all the poets were great," said Novelli. "There was some very inspirational and original work displayed."

"I thought that everyone who participated that night was fantastic," said Chappell. "It is difficult enough to stand up in front of an audience and speak, but to stand up in front of an audience and recite poetry, especially something you've written, adds a whole new level of meaning to the word difficult."

Even though the entrants were excited to share their pieces with others, some agreed with Chappell that their nerves kicked in a little at the podium.

"I love reading and writing, especially when it comes to poetry, so I was very excited when I learned of this event," said freshman Rebecca Foulks. "I was extremely nervous though, and my friend Lea had to convince me to read aloud. We helped each other through our fears."

However, the nerves were not a big problem because the entrants did a fine job.

"I think everyone did a spectacular job that evening. It was a nice experience to hear poetry from a wide array of various personalities," said Foulks.

After all 14 people recited their poems, prizes were given to the best of the best in each category. Winners included Andre Middleton for Cleverest Rap Lyric, Ken Levin for Best Shortest Poem, Lea Chappell for Finest Philosophical Couplet, Colleen Dillon for Best Dressed Poem, Drew Novelli for Best Poem From An Adapted Novel, Certificate of Merit to Rebecca Foulks, and Best In Show went to Randy Townsend.

"For a first time event, the attendance was good and spirits high, but what was most notable was the level of talent, a definite resource that the BHP intends to develop in future years," said Dickinson. "Poetry Slam will become an annual event of the BHP."

"The BHP is all about providing intellectually challenging experiences that are fun," said Nicholson. "We're looking forward to sponsoring more events to which the whole campus community will be invited."