

# The Capital Times

January 24, 2005

The Student Voice of Penn State Harrisburg

Vol. 45 No. 5

## Professor Spotlight

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PSH staff psychologist serves and teaches students

Think: plush couch and a nice person with a clipboard telling you to travel down memory lane.

Enter the world of a psychologist.

Dr. Linda Meashey, adjunct professor and Penn State Harrisburg's staff psychologist, is one of those nice people with a couch. Located in the Student Assistance Center in room W-117 Olmsted, Meashey is available to counsel students, and also teaches the many people majoring in psychology here at PSH.

The office feels cozy, with sunlight streaming in from large windows and various baubles and keepsakes showing glimpses of Meashey's hobbies and family. A die-cast model of an Aston-Martin DB5 automobile and a stained glass frog reflected light onto the expected couch adjacent to the desk. Photographs and other artwork line the wall.

Meashey became interested in psychology when she was younger. Her first choices were to either become an artist or the

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**What's on 7**  
The Hershey Bears start off their latest season strong with wins against rival teams. Details inside.

**CHAMPION SHIP**  
CD'S & RECORDS

**What's on 9**  
The Champion Ship provides an all-ages venue for local punk and hardcore bands. Details inside.

# Book prices pile high

By Kelly Nagurny  
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Can't eat? Can't sleep? Can't breathe? Usually this scenario describes the blissful beginnings of a newly blossoming love. Unfortunately for most college students, it also describes the woes of fretting over how to pay for textbooks.

The beginning of each new semester brings long lines of students straining to hold the towers of books that their professors have required them to buy.

According to a 2004 CBS News report, "...the College Board esti-

mates that students have to spend \$800 or more on books each year. Nationally, students and their parents will spend \$8.8 billion on textbooks this year, according to the National Retail Federation."

For many students, this money is spent at their campus bookstore. However, the campus bookstore is not the only option for purchasing books. Other resources, such as the Internet, can frequently provide textbooks at lesser rates, even after shipping costs.

Accounting major and WPSH Station Manager Zachary Bailey purchased his books in the PSH bookstore this semester. "It was-

n't worth it," he said. For five classes and 15 credits, Bailey spent \$680.

Fred Hockenberry, PSH bookstore manager, explained there are many factors that affect the cost of books. "First, it is important to understand what goes into the production of a single book, regardless of whether it is a text or not. The production involves the timber, paper manufacturing, type-

setter, and binding industries, and all of this before ever reaching a point where the authors and publishers have designed the book in question. All of these industries have costs associated with them that are reflected in

nonetheless informative, study conducted by the Capital Times, the PSH bookstore prices of seven random textbooks from various disciplines were compared with the prices at Amazon.com, a leading Internet textbook retailer.

The textbooks were from classes such as English, Communications, Criminal Justice, Computer Science, Statistics, Education and History.

On Amazon.com, each of the seven books was sold for an equal or lesser price than it was in the PSH bookstore. The savings on new copies of the books ranged from \$.03 to \$30. On average, Amazon.com offered a savings of almost \$12. However, this savings does not include the factor

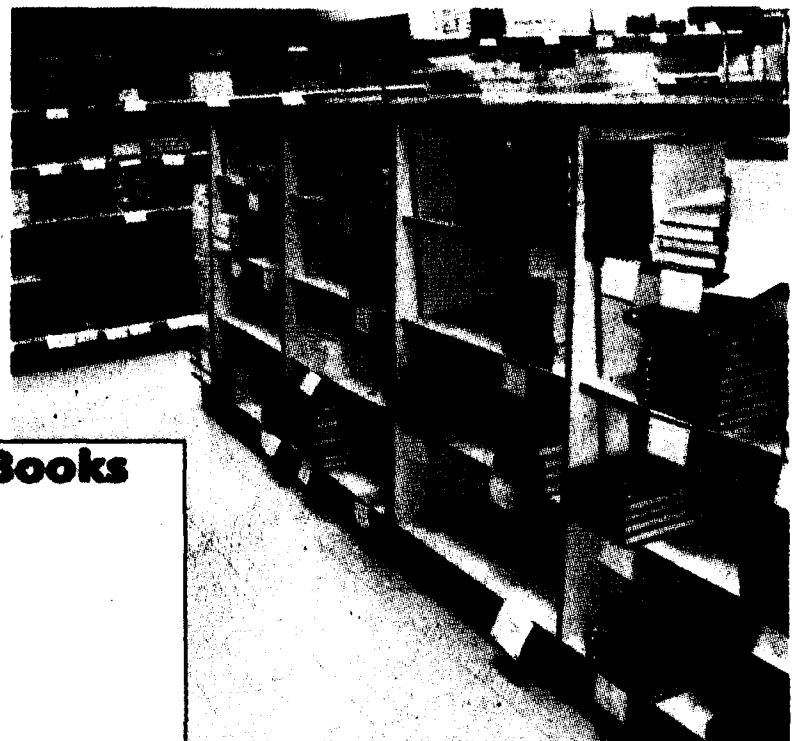


Photo by Kathryn Herr/Capital Times

The PSH bookstore offers books without the wait of online ordering.

of shipping. the price you may pay for a book," he said.

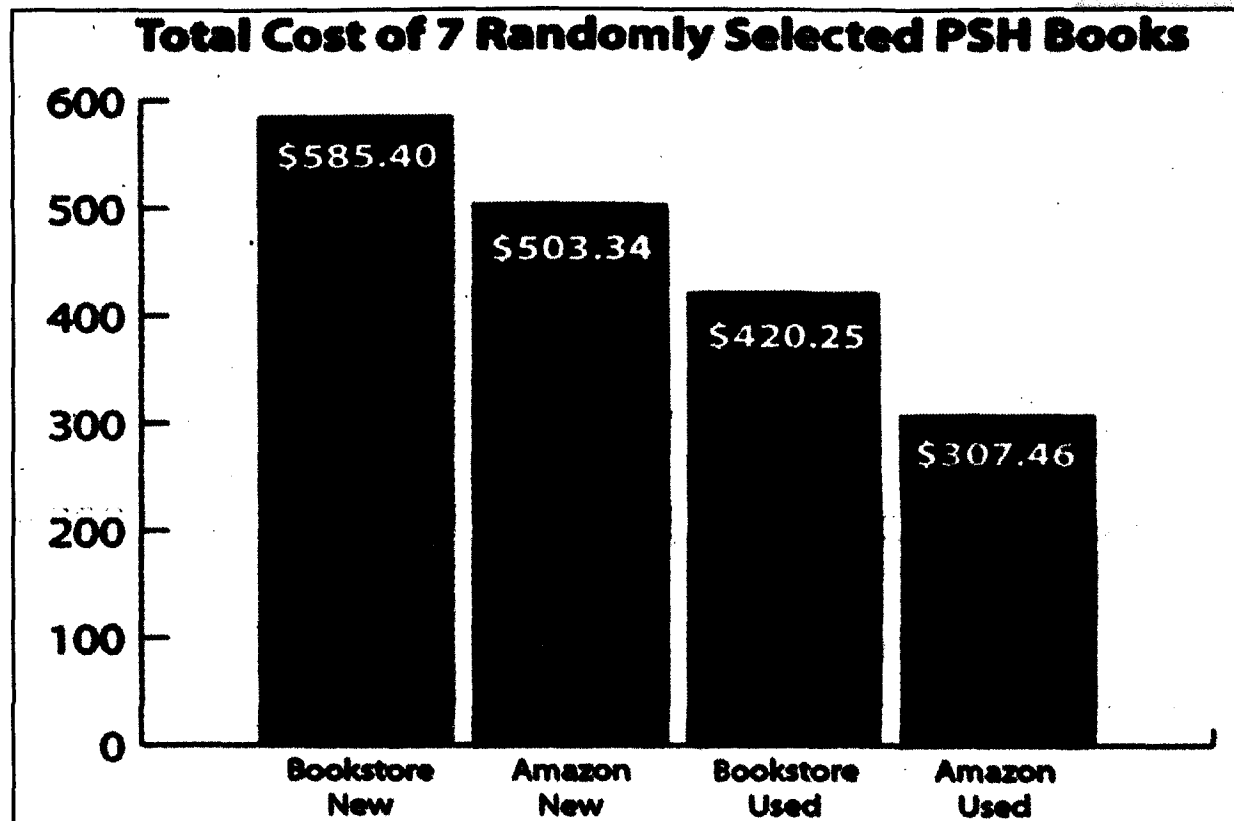
According to Hockenberry, the money made on each book sold goes to many different places. Sixty-seven percent goes to the publisher; 9 percent goes to the author; 2.5 percent goes to freight companies; 15 percent goes to the school; 6.5 percent is used for the operation of your bookstore.

In a completely unscientific, yet

Following are some other online options for purchasing books:

Bestbookbuys.com: Compares the prices of textbooks from a variety of Internet sources; Amazon.com: A media superstore offering both new and used books; Half.com: A section of Ebay where anyone can buy and

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\* Amazon prices do not include shipping and handling charges

# U.S. withdraws tsunami aid

By Beth Gardiner  
AP Writer

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - The U.S. military - the largest group helping tsunami survivors - will immediately start withdrawing troops from the relief efforts to feed and house more than 1 million refugees, the U.S. Pacific commander said Thursday.

Aid organizations responded to the announcement by Adm. Thomas Fargo by pledging to shoulder a greater share of the burden to aid tsunami survivors.

U.S. warships and helicopters "played a crucial role ... they're still playing that role," said Rob Holden, who heads a health assessment team from the United Nations, the U.S. military and other groups. "What we're trying to do ... is civilianize the humanitarian operations because we're aware that we won't have military assets forever."

Speaking in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Fargo said the U.S. military "will start right now transferring functions to the appropriate host nations and international organizations."

Fargo noted that the humanitarian missions in Indonesia, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand and other countries affected by the Dec. 26 tsunami have moved from the "immediate relief phase ... toward rehabilitation and recon-

struction."

The admiral suggested the withdrawal of the 15,000 American troops would be completed within 60 days, apparently meeting requests by Indonesian officials that foreign troops leave Aceh province on Sumatra island by the end of March.

Malaysian Defense Minister Najib Razak said Fargo told him the United States would scale down its Aceh relief operations by the end of February.

At a news conference, Fargo said the U.S. military would "respond to specific requests of host nations," adding that Washington "is committed to what clearly will be a long-term recovery effort."

About 1,000 Singaporean soldiers dispatched for relief efforts will begin pulling out Friday, a Singaporean military official said.

The withdrawal of foreign forces comes as the official death toll continues to climb. Almost four weeks after the disaster, reported deaths by government agencies in the affected countries range from nearly 158,000 to more than 221,000.

The U.S. Navy and Marines have delivered nearly 3.5 million pounds of aid supplies - about 150,000 pounds a day - since starting operations Jan. 1.

The U.N. World Food Program has distributed 5,600 tons of food to about 400,000 people in



Photo courtesy of www.nbc.com

Tsunami survivors sit in their makeshift home in Indonesia.

Aceh alone, said its Asia director, Tony Banbury. After visiting the obliterated coastal town of Meulaboh, Banbury said all tsunami survivors would be fed.

"We will get food aid to everyone who needs it," he said.

But worries over security in Aceh on the northern tip of Sumatra - where government forces and separatists rebels have fought for nearly three decades - threatened to complicate relief efforts.

Although the sides called a temporary cease-fire to facilitate the

relief effort, a barrage of automatic gunfire was heard in the hills near the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, prompting residents of one refugee camp to run for cover.

It was unclear who fired the shots, but a local military commander acknowledged that an operation was under way in the area to counter rebel activity. No one was hurt, and the shooting did not appear to target refugees.

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