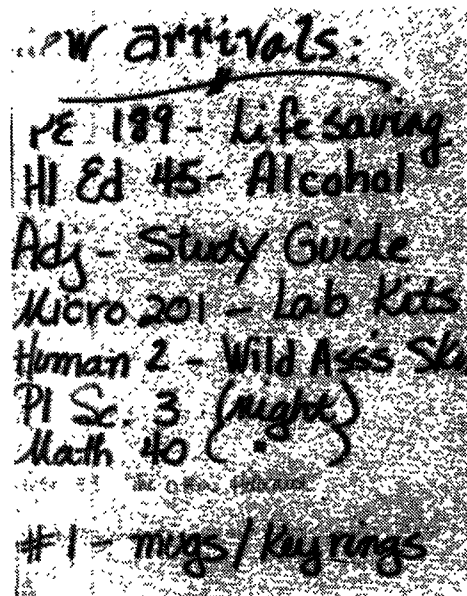


EDITORIAL

BY MATT HARRIS

How many of you have gone through the first few weeks of a semester without having your required textbooks because the bookstore is out of them? One hundred, two hundred, possibly five hundred of you. Whatever the number is, the point of the matter remains the same: the bookstore should have a large enough quantity of textbooks AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SEMESTER - not weeks into the semester. This is a very serious flaw in the Penn State system because it prevents the student from completing his/her required assignments. This, in turn, causes the student to fall far behind. The result is detrimental: poor grades produced by the student.



A Sign of the Times

Many of you know me personally or at least know me by recognition. You've seen me working in the campus bookstore at various times; thus, an association. I am able to write this editorial based upon my experiences while working there over the course of one and a half years. I say this because there are going to be individuals who are not going to appreciate what I am about to say in the upcoming paragraphs. These

individuals might accuse me of distorting the facts or possibly slander against the Penn State system, the Hazleton campus, and individuals mentioned in this editorial. Yet what I am about to tell you is the honest truth - a truth that needs to be made aware to you, the student.

I am going to explain to you in careful detail why books are not present upon the shelves at the bookstore when you go there in order to purchase them. Prior to the commencement of the semester, lists of all the scheduled classes are fed into the computer system - including the enrollment in each and every class. The numerical value, which is projected upon the screen, determines

the number of books ordered from the companies by the bookstore. Management then decides upon how many books are to be ordered.

You would think that management would order the amount of books based upon this information. In some cases, it does. However, in most instances, management fails to do so for a number of reasons. One reason is because the publishers' price is too steep for management to expend funding for. It concludes that it would be more cost efficient to purchase books from a used book company.

Now, before I continue, I should state that there is nothing wrong with using a used textbook - providing it is the CORRECT textbook. The

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