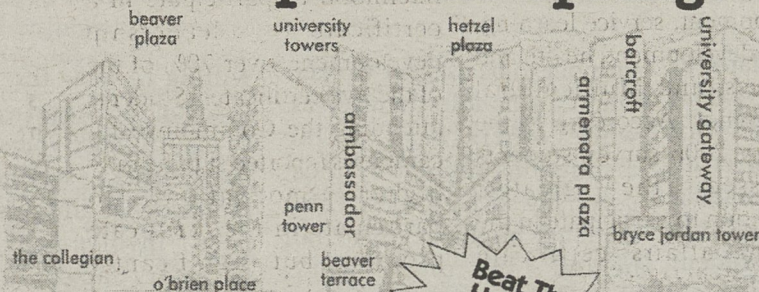


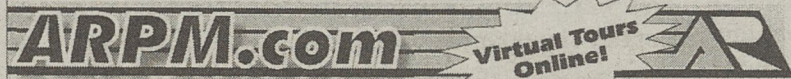
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Required Books Not Being Used At All

Bobby Casiano

A Penn State 2003 survey states that 78% of students had required books assigned on the syllabus for some use but were mostly not used. Slightly more than 56% of the students said that they had one or more books required that were not used at all by the course instructor for any assignments noted on the syllabus. 54% state "that of the required books mostly not used or not used at all for assignment" and "were specified by the instructor as background reading or providing alternative perspectives, supplemental information or reference materials." Three fourths of those surveyed also purchased supplementary materials including required software, lab

equipment, problem sets, class workbooks, and printed course packets. The students spent an average of \$87.00 on required supplementary material. In purchasing books students reported spending an average of \$356.00.

Mont Alto Sophomore Solomon Ortiz states that he is "not surprised that professors do this" and "I usually just ask students who took the class before hand if the professor really makes use of the book."

Ortiz states "professors usually do that so they can make a profit off their own books. 40% of the respondents of the survey stated that "the required books not used were

authored by PSU faculty members." Assistant Professor of Arts and Architecture Nancy Funk states "these book prices are ridiculous" and "the students don't get all of their monetary investment returned." The 2003 March survey states 77% of the students that attempted to sell back some of their required books at the end of the fall semester, were not able to do so. Over 27% stated that the book would not be used the next semester, 21% stated that it was an old edition, 13% that the bookstore had enough copies in stock, and 9% that the syllabus would not apply for the next semester.

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