

## Same books are sold for less in the U.K.

**KATIE TRAPP**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In endless search for cheaper textbooks, there is a new source for college students—the United Kingdom.

Many American-published textbooks can be bought for a cheaper price in Britain than in the United States. These price differences are one-third to 50 percent cheaper, including shipping and handling.

Amazon's explanation? British students would pirate the books if they were more expensive.

In 1998, the Supreme Court ruled that

people are not prohibited from shipping books to the United States that were intended to be sold abroad. It has taken five years for Americans to really take notice of this issue.

UNCW students were surprised to learn that they have this option, but were not shocked that books are cheaper abroad.

"I think students just accept the fact that textbooks are expensive and just suck it up," said senior Bryan McDowell, "This year I'm definitely going to look into buying them from Britain, and if they're cheaper, then I'll do it."

"I think college students tend to spend more money on books just because they are unaware of their resources to find cheaper books," said freshman Debra Worley. "It's unfair to students in the U.S. to have to pay more for books than British students on an online resource since they should be universal prices."

The obvious downside is that students will have to wait longer to receive their books by mail order.

Students can do a price check on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), and then on the British Web site, [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk).

### STUDENTS, FROM COVER

insights. UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser has referred to this same benefit as a "brain gain" for his university.

Of course, out-of-state tuition is more than six times that of in-state tuition. That would bring more money and a better quality education, according to Lanier.

Lanier sees both benefits and potential problems with the proposal, but admits he has received more negative feedback.

Ultimately, the decision will be made in Chapel Hill next year. UNC Board of Governors Chair Brad Wilson said the proposal is not dead, and the board's budget and finance committee will begin examining the financial impact of such a move on North Carolina universities.

## Photo of the Week



After spotting yellow mist in one of the hallways of the Warwick Center, an employee dialed 911 at 8:45 p.m. The mist was caused by the discharge of two fire extinguishers in the building. Three students and several members of the cleaning staff were examined by the EMS as a precaution, but no one was hospitalized. No suspects have been reported.

## Get more bucks for your books at buyback

**KIARA JONES**

STAFF WRITER

The total amount of money students have received at buyback has steadily increased over time.

Individual students can also get more money back for their books if they sell them back earlier.

"We have increased the total money back to students each semester. Last academic year, we put nearly 400K back into students' hands, lowering the overall cost of textbooks for UNCW students," said Andy Shaffer, store manager of the UNCW bookstore.

"During finals week, I expect to give out \$250,000 for students who sell their books back," he said.

This trend is not likely to stop any time soon. "We will work to increase this amount each semester through partnering with our faculty and promoting this service to our students," Shaffer said. "The more money we put back into the pockets of students, the more used books we have available for the next semester."

The UNCW bookstore provides year-round retail buybacks.

Meaning, at any time of the semester, not just during finals, you are able to sell your book back. That is, if that book will be needed the next semester.

"Buyback is mainly determined by the book orders for the next semester, and we have worked with faculty to get more

orders in each semester so we can pay more students half back for their books during finals week," Shaffer said.

If a student sells back a book that the bookstore has on order at that time, or if a professor needs that book again, the student will get half back for the book. Professors determine buyback by turning in their book orders, and this factor decides whether you get back half or wholesale price.

If the book will not be used next semester, the student will be given the wholesale price, which is dictated by the wholesale company.

The earlier students sell back a book, the higher the price they will get.

Sam Martin, a UNCW sophomore, said, "I usually sell them during finals ... the money I receive from selling back the books, by that time, is usually too low for it to make a difference to me."

Other ways to make sure you get the most possible money back is to make sure you bring any supplemental materials, such as CDs, back with the book. Remember that in order to sell books back, you must have your UNCW student ID card.

Another option for saving money when book buybacks come around, is the book exchange forum on [www.theseahawk.org](http://www.theseahawk.org), where you can post what books you have and how much you want for them and vice versa.