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Fayetteville spruces up for Christmas



SARAH DAVENPORT
Staff Writer

The holidays are a time to eat, drink, and be merry, but also lay back, relax and have a good time.

If there is one thing people like to do, it is have fun. We only need a reason to throw a party or have a get together, and Christmas is one of our most popular reasons. Most students go home for the holiday season, but if you are in town during December, there are many entertaining events for you to get involved with. The holiday season in the Cape Fear Region has officially begun and the calendar is packed with fun things to do.

"A Dickens' Holiday" started off the Christmas season in downtown Fayetteville on Friday, Novem-



Above: A horse carriage carries Fayetteville visitors through downtown Fayetteville during the 2003 holiday season. **Far Right:** Two Fayetteville residents sell crafts during a holiday craft sale in downtown Fayetteville.



Photos courtesy of Sarah Davenport

ber 26. Actors in period clothing, live bands and musicians and carolers lined the sidewalks of downtown entertaining all who traveled historic

Hay Street with traditional music and activities. People could drink hot cider, watch a Punch and Judy show or take a carriage ride. This event

was the first of many in a series of parades, shows and adventures for all who want to fun and join in the Christmas spirit.

The *Price is Right* for textbooks. But Where?

Exploring book buying options off-campus and on-line



DEMARIO CAMPBELL
Staff Writer

As we finish this semester and begin a new one, a question that may cross your mind is how much will you spend on textbooks. The answer is almost never certain until the day of purchasing. With prices sometimes reaching thousands of dollars, one has to wonder if there are any alternatives to buying books.

Regardless of whether you buy from the Methodist College bookstore or an alternative, it is probably going to

break you financially. With respect to the Methodist College bookstore, there are some alternatives out there that won't break the bank near as much.

The first alternative to high prices is a web site called www.half.com. Half.com is a web site that branches off from EBay and has books that are really inexpensive. When compared to the bookstore, the price differences to half.com are astounding; usually half the price, thus the name.

For example, a physics book at the bookstore was \$151.41, while on half.com it was \$74.09. An environmental science book here was \$120.38;

on half.com it was \$44.00. Another example was an English book that cost \$71.42 here, while at half.com it was \$25.00.

Do you want to find books even more reduced than half.com? Try Ebay itself. Often at the end of the semester many students are selling their books on Ebay at even cheaper prices than half.com. Although you will have to wait for the auctions to end and may get beaten out on prices, you may end up saving substantial amounts of money.

If you are not into online shopping and prefer store shopping, Edward McKay is a bookstore which special-

izes in selling books for less. There are two locations in Fayetteville on Santee Drive and Bragg Blvd. An English book here was \$70.09, while at Ed McKay it was \$39.00.

Books on the internet or in other stores are sometimes used with a few irregularities, but very much usable. With the alternatives listed in this article you will be able to know who you are buying them from and ask the seller questions before you buy. With these alternatives, shopping for books may not shrink your wallet after all and may make high prices a thing of the past.