

# Textbook buying — how to bypass the rush hour

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Staff Writer

Although students may think endless lines are inevitable when they go to Student Stores to buy textbooks, there are ways of avoiding the long wait.

According to Rutledge Tufts, general manager of Student Stores, the secret to getting through the textbook department quickly is to arrive at the store when it opens at 8 a.m., or stop by late in the afternoon. Otherwise, Tufts said, students should expect a 30 to 45 minute wait to

purchase textbooks during the rush hour.

The textbook department, located on the second floor of Student Stores, will be open 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., August 24 to 28, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 29, and 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on August 31 and September 1. Beginning September 2, the textbook department will resume regular hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. All non-medical textbooks can be purchased in the textbook department; books for medical and allied health courses are located in Caduceus Medical

Bookstore.

Tufts advised students to go to their first day of class before buying books to ensure that the books listed will be used by the professor.

If a student finds that he bought the wrong book or a book that is not required by the professor, he can receive a full refund if he still has the receipt and if the book is in the same condition as when it was purchased. Tufts recommended that no marks be made in the books until the student is sure he wants them.

Students who drop a class may get a full refund for books if they return them to the textbook department along with a receipt and a drop-add slip.

Full refunds will be given two weeks after the beginning of classes if the book is in the same condition as when purchased. Full refunds for drop-add books will be given usually up to one day past the drop-add period.

According to Tufts, the textbook department strictly enforces the refund policy. No refunds will be given on books purchased during the last four weeks of class, for example. This prevents students from buying a book on the night before an exam and returning it the next day.

Students can sell their books back to the textbook department during the entire semester (August 24 to December 8), but only at a wholesale price, said Charlie Byrd, manager of the textbook department.

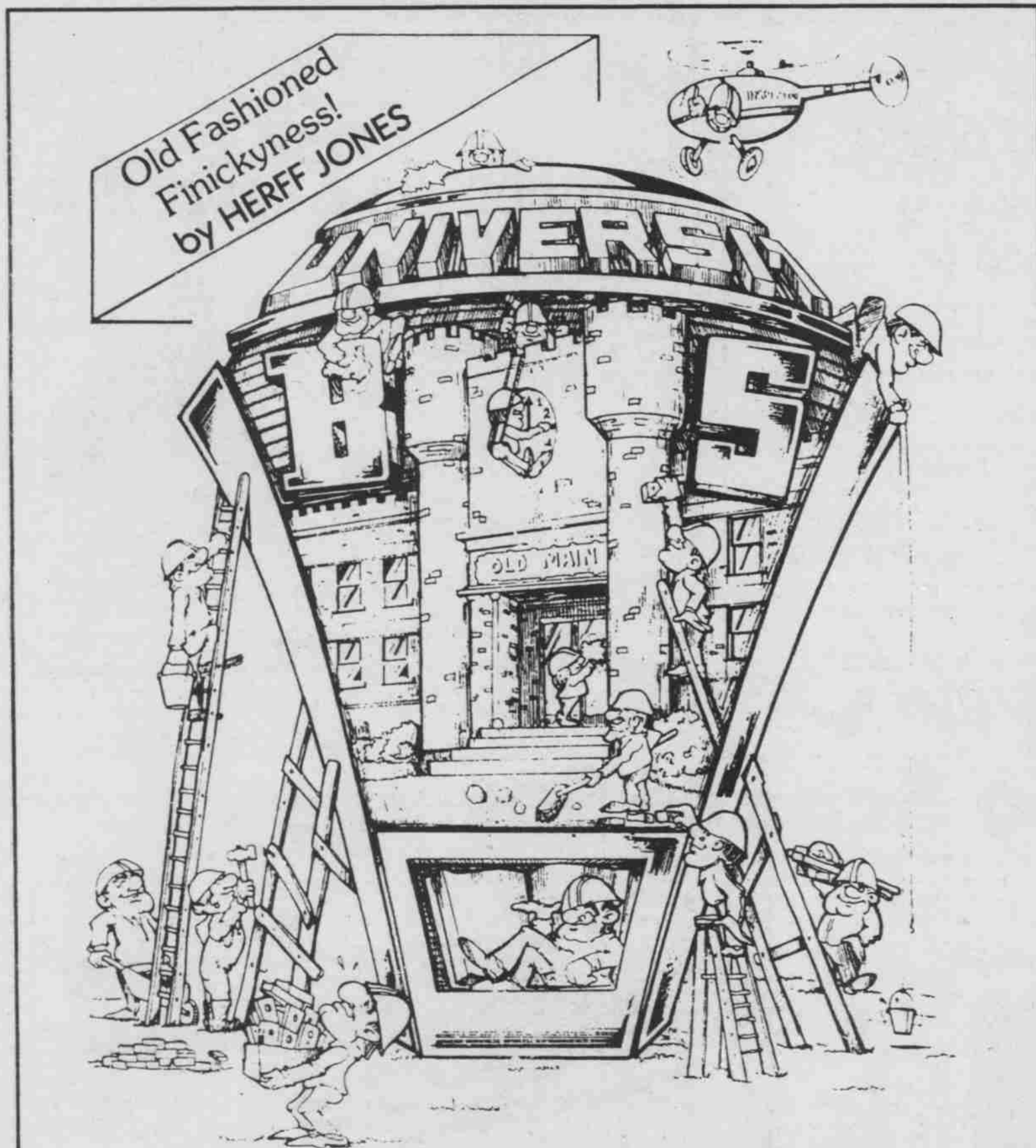
According to Byrd, the best time for students to sell their books is

during the final exam period (December 8 to December 16), so that they can get up to half price of the retail back for the books.

Tufts said that used books can be bought at three-fourths the new book price and could be sold for as much as half of the retail price. If a book retails at \$40 and is bought by the student at the used price of \$30, the textbook department may buy the book back at \$20, so the student uses the book for only \$10.

The textbook department tries to have 80 percent used books on the shelves for the large introductory classes, Tufts said. He suggested buying the used books to get a better deal on buybacks.

An alternative to the textbook department is the book co-op, which is offered each semester by Alpha Phi Omega, a service fraternity. The APO book co-op is held at the beginning of each semester; students who participate in the co-op may buy or sell used books at prices that are often below Student Stores' prices.



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