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Why buy when you can rent?



Textbook prices pack a punch.

Online company provides innovative way to get textbooks

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

BookRenter.com, a new online company which just launched this past fall, is aiming to offer students a more convenient solution to purchasing their textbooks. The company is offering to take the aggravation out of buying textbooks through encouraging students to rent them. They promise the advantages that come with buying a textbook while at the same time provide inexpensive rates and hassle-free policies.

Colin Barceloux, president of BookRenter.com, sympathizes with students maintaining that he and his colleagues were once students themselves and faced the same disadvantages and consistent frustrations that come with buying textbooks. They understand the process in which students dish out hundreds of dollars to buy textbooks only to receive the bare minimum in return. That is why they are proposing the idea of textbook rental.

The terms that accompany this rental approach are fairly simple. Essentially there is a three-step process once one is registered with the company, including choosing the desired text or texts, selecting a rental period and ultimately returning the books free of charge.

Because the company strives to meet the needs of each individual student, they offer six different rental periods or durations in which students have access to the rented text. Therefore, the company is available to students who attend both schools that function by semesters as well as quarters.

Barceloux explained that while the company does not plan to open any retail stores, they would like to physically work on campuses to promote their company.

"We will be strictly internet based, but we do plan to roll out a Campus Rep program to have a student representative at different campuses across the country," stated Barceloux.

The company offers a wide range of subject matter including that of educational texts as well as general interest texts. They do not, however, rent books that function as workbooks, lab manuals, etc. because the books are obviously reused.

BookRenter.com promises books that are in new condition, consequently charging students if the texts are damaged in any way. Further, they encourage students to buy any books if they would like to do so.

The delivery period once an order is placed is 2-5 business days on average for priority and 6-10 for media mail. Shipments are almost always made the business day following the day on which the order was placed.

There are no service fees outside of the rental fee and shipment fees and the only state in which orders are taxed is California.

For more information about renting textbooks from this company, students can access the company Web site at bookrenter.com.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Science Career Fair a success



A student stops by the FBI's booth at the Science Career Fair.

Second of five events by the Career Center

RACHEL KING
NEWS EDITOR

On Friday, Feb. 17, the Science Career Fair came to the Science and Technology Building to recruit and inform students of all majors and backgrounds. From 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., students meandered through the third floor lobby, speaking with representatives and employees from eight diverse companies and schools about their future.

The science fair, as well as all the career fairs, was sponsored by the Career Center, which hosts them annually. As many will remember, there was a large, full-blown career fair last semester with all the majors included. This semester, the same fair is back, only broken down into individual disciplines, schools and fields.

"All the fairs are always open to all students of every major. Everyone is encouraged to come," said Catrina Davis, assistant director and liaison to the College of Education, School of Allied Health Science, nursing and sciences.

Davis, who helped coordinate the event, added that it does not matter what a student's background is because employers like to talk to everyone and students can find out more about different

fields by visiting all the fairs.

The science fair itself was comprised of eight companies and schools, each looking for students to come and work or intern for them.

"Employers talk to students hoping to recruit them for full-time jobs," Davis said.

"If they aren't recruiting someone for a full-time job, often it's an internship or some other valuable opportunity or a variety of other things."

As of 12:30 p.m., around 150 students had come through and spoken to the representatives. Anna Moseley, assistant director and liaison to the College of Human Ecology and College of Arts and Sciences, estimated a crowd of around 200.

"We even had a student come from N.C. State because he wanted to speak to the representatives from the F.B.I. and they don't stop by N.C. State's career fairs," Moseley said.

Other than the Federal Bureau of Investigation, companies such as Hospira, a pharmaceutical company located in Rocky Mount, and Duke University Health Systems were present. Also attending were representatives from ECU and the Alumni Association.

The National Geographical-Intelligence Agency, Division of Environmental Health for the State of North Carolina and The

Student Conservation Association came, too.

Debbie Lemons, an employee of Hospira, commented on the student turnout.

"We've received a lot of resumes, at least 15 or 20," Lemons said.

"We've had a lot of biology and chemistry-oriented students stop by. Also, there have been several freshmen and sophomore students through here, asking questions, trying to get an idea of what they want to do."

What the ideal situation would be also present and will be present at all the career fairs. After all, almost 50 percent of the ROTC students at ECU are in the North Carolina National Guard as well, according to SFC Jimmy Smith, Career Counselor and NCNG liaison.

"It's the ideal situation for recruitment for both students and employers," Davis said.

"Employers can access all kinds of students; the students are available to all the employers and the employers come to them..." How easy is that?

"As far as I know, the concept of holding a career fair has been in existence as long as the Career Center itself has. These fairs are one of the major functions of our office," Davis said.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

Golden LEAF offers students \$3,000



Students will soon have the opportunity to earn scholarship money.

Funding applicable to 2006-07 academic year

ELISA BIZZOTTO
STAFF WRITER

The Golden LEAF Foundation is offering a \$3,000 scholarship to N.C. residents who will be enrolled at one of the 16 campuses of the University of North Carolina in the fall of 2006. The scholarship is specifically targeted to those students who are from one of 74 N.C. counties that are tobacco-dependent or are economically-distressed as a result of the declining tobacco industry.

Robbie Schultz of the N.C. State Education Assistance Authority expressed the primary function of the scholarship opportunity.

"It is hoped that these scholarships will ease the financial burdens of students with financial need, particularly those whose families have been adversely affected by the decline of the tobacco industry."

According to Schultz, the recipients for the scholarship will be selected in three categories: freshmen, transfers and renewals. Transfer students will be eligible if they are enrolling in a N.C. public university for the first time while transferring from a community college. Renewals are those students who are current recipients of the scholarship at a public university.

Schultz also emphasized that those students who receive additional funding amounting to 75

percent or more of the total cost to attend a public university will be placed low on the priority list for this scholarship. Further, the value of a family farm will not be included in the calculation of financial need.

The scholarship will be provided for up to 500 students who meet the requirements and will be split in half to afford students \$1,500 for the fall semester and \$1,500 for the spring semester.

Some of the participating universities include ECU, Appalachian State, North Carolina A&T, all University of North Carolina schools and Western Carolina.

The application deadline for freshmen and transfer students is March 31. Freshmen and transfer applicants must also submit their FAFSA forms by March 31 to be considered. Freshmen must submit their high school transcripts, and transfer students must submit their community college transcripts by that date also.

For renewal students currently receiving the Golden LEAF Scholarship at public universities, the application deadline is May 31. Renewal students must also submit their university transcripts reflecting their grades through the spring 2006 semester no later than May 31, and they must submit their FAFSAs no later than May 1.

To apply for this scholarship, students can visit CFNC.org/goldenleaf.

This writer can be contacted at news@theeastcarolinian.com.

The benefits of a liberal arts degree

(CareerBuilder.com) — Some college students simply prefer studying Monet over math and Freudian theory over physics. For them, it makes sense to major in a liberal arts discipline like history or philosophy.

But liberal arts majors get more out of college than an interesting transcript; they also master the writing and communication skills experts say are crucial to success in almost any career.

The benefits of a liberal arts major start early. A degree in liberal arts rarely restricts a student to just one career path. Whereas some majors — engineering or computer science, for example — provide specialized training in a specific field, liberal arts degrees tend to provide a much broader educational background and skills applicable to almost any job.

Additionally, good writing skills shine through on résumés and cover letters. David Teten, CEO of New York-based independent research firm Nitron Advisers, says he has seen communication from some job seekers that was incoherent, ungrammatical and rude.

"One out of five people who apply to jobs with my company get rejected because their writing skills are so bad," he says. Score

one for liberal arts majors.

The same communication skills employers look for during the job search are valued even more highly on the job — in part because they can save the company money.

One-third of employees at blue-chip companies can't write well, and businesses spend up to \$3.1 billion annually on remedial training to improve their workers' writing skills, according to a report by the National Commission on Writing.

And writing skills are only getting more valuable. "As companies get bigger and less and less cohesive... the written word becomes even more important," says Lisa Earle McLeod, columnist and author of *Forget Perfect* (Penguin/Putnam).

"You don't have people in one place working together anymore, so being able to write concisely and directly for people will become a more valued skill."

Thus, some liberal arts majors find their superior communication skills eventually catapulting them to top management positions — and top income brackets.

"The jobs that really, really pay the best involve getting large bodies of people to do what you want them to do," McLeod says,

pointing to TV producers and CEOs as examples. "And that's all communicating."

With all of the benefits of a liberal arts major, there's little wonder as to why these degrees are so popular. Students earning associate's and bachelor's degrees in liberal arts disciplines far outnumber students studying in mathematic or scientific fields, according to data from the U.S. Center for Education Statistics.

And this large supply often means entry-level salaries for liberal arts majors plummet far below those offered to their quantitatively-focused classmates.

Starting salaries for this year's liberal arts graduates average around \$30,300 — well below the \$52,000 offered to electrical engineering grads and the \$43,800 for accounting majors, according to a spring salary survey by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

McLeod says the nature of liberal arts majors' skills also prevent them from earning immediate career success.

"Everybody can read and write, and everybody can talk," she says.

"That's why it takes so long

see EDUCATION page A2

A night of music, fun and salsa



The ECU Folk and Country Dancers sponsored a salsa dance Friday, Feb. 18 at the Willis Building. Instruction was provided by Procopio and Friends and music was provided by DJ Ramon.

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Break from page A4

Don't grimace in anger at your computer screen as you read your friends' spring break plans on Facebook. With this list of destinations, be sure that you will have much more interesting stories to tell than friends who went to the Bahamas or Cancun.

Still, if none of these plans tickle your goat, get cracking and spend the week planning spring break 2007.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Vixen from page A4

My curiosity and love for life changed all that with one simple, yet devastating statement - "I don't think we should be together anymore."

Breaking up with my boyfriend of three years broke my heart into a million pieces. Many asked if it hurt me so badly then why did I do it? I have sat and wondered the same thing, and as cliché as it sounds, I wanted to experience the real college life - I felt like I was being held back.

This may sound selfish, so I'll say I was holding him back, too; he just couldn't realize it. He said that he felt like I owed him an explanation so quickly I racked my brain to find only blanks.

I had no other choice than to let my heart do a little talking. Although I was happy and content on the outside, I felt like we weren't exploring ourselves enough because it was always "we," not "you" or "me."

College is a time for self development and personal growth. So I guess you could call that "from the heart." As for me, it was a little on the bright side.

At first it was difficult to escape my once "routine" life. Not talking to him every day was making me go crazy. "Only time will heal," my friends kept telling

me. It really hurts, but I know I made the right decision. My all-too-serious relationship was also filled with jealousy, stress and gradually turned into constant bickering. It took a huge part of my heart to finally end things with him and the time that followed was miserable.

I realized how much time we actually spent together as I found myself at home alone, watching television on Friday nights. I miss seeing his face, kissing his lips and even hearing him say my name. My nerves are really bad - not allowing me to get too much sleep at night, but the sickening feeling finally went away.

My boyfriend was great and I really believed that he was "the one." But after seeing how much fun everyone had last semester, I just wanted to go out too, but he always wanted to stay in. We built a great bond with each other, we passed a challenge in life many struggle with - to love someone and possess the courage to let them love you back.

Of course, I thought I made a mistake, but I'm a strong believer in fate. If we are supposed to be together, then our paths will meet again. It's true that we can't always see what we need, so maybe this is a blessing in disguise.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Pryor from page A4

went on to be a producer, writer and director. He received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame and later appeared on "Chicago Hope" with his other daughter, Rain. He played a patient with multiple sclerosis, but for Pryor this was not pretending, it was as real as life. That same year he published an autobiography, *Pryor Convictions*.

Both his accomplishments and downfalls have inspired people everywhere. Pryor never set his goals shy of his dreams.

On Dec. 10, 2005, we lost this comedic genius due to a heart attack.

This writer can be contacted at features@theeastcarolinian.com.

Caffeine craze

Caffeine content for various highly caffeinated drinks:

Beverage (serving size)	Per ounce	Per serving size
Coffee, drip (8 oz)	14.6 mg	
Red Bull (8.2 oz)	9.8 mg	
BAWLS Guaranaxx (10 oz) (sugar-free)	7.2 mg	72 mg
BAWLS Guarana (10 oz)	6.4 mg	64 mg
Mountain Dew (12 oz)	4.6 mg	
Coca Cola Classic (12 oz)	2.83 mg	

Sources: American Beverage Association, Hobarama Graphic: The Miami Herald

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Red Sox give Manny green light to report for training in March



Despite rampant trade rumors throughout the MLB offseason, it looks as though Manny will still be playing in Fenway come spring.

(AP) — Manny Ramirez was given permission by the Boston Red Sox to report to spring training on March 1, six days after the team's first full-squad workout and one day after Major League Baseball's mandatory reporting date.

Ramirez asked the team through his agent to trade him during the offseason, but the Red Sox were unable to find a deal to their liking.

"Manny is in Florida completing an extensive training regimen and is prepared to have an exceptional season," said a joint statement from Ramirez and the team that was released by the Red Sox on Tuesday.

Boston general manager Theo Epstein has refused comment on his discussions with Ramirez, saying they are between the club and the player.

"I think Manny knows that we have made a good faith effort to meet his ... request," Jed Hoyer, then Boston's co-general manager, said Jan. 12. "We haven't found a deal that works for us."

Position players are due in town on Wednesday, the day before the first workout. Baseball's collective bargaining agreement sets the mandatory reporting date as 33 days prior to the major league opener, which is April 2.

Boston starts its exhibition schedule on March 2 against Minnesota. Ramirez might not be in Fort Myers long — he is on the Dominican Republic's preliminary roster for the World Baseball Classic, which runs from March 3-20.

Ramirez batted .292 with 45 homers and 144 RBIs last year. He said during the season he didn't want to stay with the Red Sox, a statement he's made in many of his five years with the club.

On Sunday, David Ortiz, also scheduled to play for the Dominican Republic, said he didn't know where Ramirez was.

"I talked to Manny like a week ago and he was going to Italy tomorrow," Ortiz said.

He must have been joking, Ortiz decided, since Ramirez probably couldn't get back in time for Thursday's workout.

"He seems happy," Ortiz said. "I read in the news that he wants to stay in Boston. Something like that, right? That's good. Sounds good to me. Having my man around once again. Hopefully, things never change."

Ricky from page A5

suspension, only this time, his team is surely going to be better off without him.

"He's so particular about what he puts in his body now. I would just be shocked," said Ricky's mother, Sandy Williams, to the Palm Beach Post.

"I just don't believe he's smoking weed."

The last time the former Heis-

man Trophy winner failed a drug test, which was back in 2004, he called it quits and began a life of meditation, tranquility and bong hits.

He left his team, the Miami Dolphins, hanging out to dry as they struggled through the season only to achieve a paltry 4-12 record. His teammates were highly disappointed with his decision to retire and,

obviously, judging by their record, weren't prepared for the loss of a man who contributed three-quarters of their total offensive production.

"This," defensive end Jason Taylor said in 2004 Post, "is certainly unexpected."

This time, however, it looks a bit different. With soon-to-be elite Head Coach Nick Saban at the helm and a multi-faceted back in

Ronnie Brown taking on the load in his sophomore season, Ricky won't be missed.

Come to think of it, maybe he'd want it that way.

Oh, and folks, Mike Davis for head coach in 2006-07! Go Pirates!

This writer can be contacted at sports@theeastcarolinian.com.

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Page A8

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HELP WANTED

Greenville Recreation & Parks Department is recruiting part-time youth baseball coaches for the spring t-ball program. Applicants must possess a good knowledge of baseball skills and have the ability and patience to work with youth. Hours vary from 3:30 pm to 8:00 pm,

Monday - Friday with some weekend coaching. Flexible hours according to class schedules. This program will run from April 24-mid June. Salaries start at \$6.50 per hour. Apply at the City of Greenville, Human Resources Department, 201 Martin L. King Dr. Phone 329-4492. For more information, please contact the Athletic Office at 329-4550, Monday through Friday, 10 am until 7 pm.

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