Students feel high prices do not equal learning value

“A student at Iowa State can spend as much as $347 on a single textbook in the Iowa State University Bookstore. The book is “Solid State Physics.”

“A student at Iowa State can spend as little as $7 on a book in the University Bookstore. The book is “Narrative Life of Frederick Douglas.”

Each semester begins with both excitement and nervousness as students mill about campus trying to find their classes and figure out where they can do homework between classes. Inevitably, many conversations heard by a passerby will pertain to what students believe are outrageous textbook prices. From a $182.70 sociology textbook to an $18 women’s and gender studies book, students seem to always have an opinion on what they’re paying.

Iowa State estimates undergraduate students will spend more than $500 on textbooks and supplies each semester in the 2018-19 academic year. The cost at the University Bookstore has lead many students to pursue alternative purchasing options like Amazon.

Dalton Grell, 22, fifth year senior in supply chain management, got creative when he saw a required textbook, “Spreadsheet Model and Decision Analysis,” was $306.70 at the University Bookstore. He found it on Amazon for $110.59.

Grell did not know why it cost so much less or what the difference was when asked.

“I haven’t actually opened the book,” Grell said. “It’s still in the package from Amazon.”

Grell had a recommendation to students who are new to purchasing textbooks.

“You may have the list of the books you are required, wait until you go to the first couple days of class, see what the professor says.” – Dalton Grell, senior in supply chain management
The snow is starting to melt, the robins are starting to return and each passing day is becoming a bit longer. The start of spring is just around the corner and that means plants and flowers will soon be blooming.

Richard Jauron, an extension specialist in the department of horticulture, offers his advice to those wishing to start their spring gardening.

**Flowering Gardens:**

For flowering gardens, there is not too much to do yet, but if wanted, you can start sowing seeds indoors.

“Things like cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower, all those go outside early to mid-April,” Jauron said. “We typically want to start those indoors about four to five weeks before that, so right now for example.”

But for things that need to be planted in more of the warm season, like tomatoes and peppers, Jauron says you should wait until after the last frost, which is usually around early May.

But once again, you can start those inside, typically five to six weeks, or early to mid-March, before then.

**Vegetable Gardens:**

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But once again, you can start those inside, typically five to six weeks, or early to mid-March, before then.

The main thing you can do now is buy seeds in preparation for the growing season and take a look at the physical state of your garden space.

“When the weather is nice, you might just want to go out there and clean up things, move out the debris,” Jauron said. “That’s probably going to be, depending on the weather, a couple weeks or so, it’s still kind of wet out.”

For vegetable gardens, a suitable location needs to include at least six hours of direct sunlight a day. In addition to the direct sunlight, a good, well-drained soil is essential for the success of a vegetable garden.

For beginners, Jauron advises starting with a smaller vegetable garden.

“I would suggest they kind of start small, because they are going to run into problems,” Jauron said. “They are going to have issues that they don’t know how to deal with and so on a smaller scale it’s easier to deal with that.”

**Flowering Gardens:**

A flowering garden has more leeway for location. There are some that do well in the sun and some plants that do well in the shade.

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Alternative Break participants take a break next to a swimming hole at Cloudland Canyon State Park in Rising Fawn, Georgia.

BY JILL O'BRIEN
@IOWASTATEDAILY.COM

I'm jolted awake by the sound of my alarm on my windowsill. It's 4:20 a.m. As I peel myself away from my warm bed sheets, I take a minute to remember why I'm awake this early, and suddenly I get out of bed with a bit more energy. I throw toiletries into my shower caddy and fold extra T-shirts into my already packed backpack, all while checking the "Alternative Breaks — Georgia Edition" group chat impatiently. The entire week has dragged up until today, almost like I've been holding my breath and now I can excitedly exhale. All I could think was today, I leave Ames to spend a week in the woods.

At 6:22 a.m., the group arrived to pick me up. Our vessel — a 15-passenger van with the university's name written across it — sat parked about 100 feet from my front door. I opened the back door, threw my bags in and then got in on the passenger side, where I'm greeted by four or five other tired faces.

We crack a few jokes about where our HR person would go on the trail, and then ask ourselves where we wanted water to go to get a better idea of how to do the job.

Our goal was to build a trail that would push water down into the brush beside it, so that excess water wouldn't end up our work. To do this, we would use the Pulaski to establish the cuts in the dirt where we wanted the trail and "pizza slice" the dirt so it could easily be pulled up by a rogue hoe and the lighter organic material could be tamped down by the McLeod.

Back home in Illinois, I never had to do a lot of outside work. Whenever my parents were doing yard work, I would stay inside and avoid getting my hands dirty at all costs.

However, whenever I was handed a Pulaski to begin cutting away at roots buried deep in the ground, I went to town, hacking them in half and discarding them into the brush. I felt like Paul Bunyan, chopping roots and small trees that stood in our way. Halfway through our first day, I learned very quickly that trails don't just happen — they're made.

At the end of the day, we found ourselves standing on a stretch of fresh, new trail. Six hours ago, leaves and branches caused us to trip and tangle our way down the hill. Now, the trail looked as though it had been there for six years.

On the drive back up to the group lodge, I was exhausted. Three months after my bunionectomy, my feet were tired and in need of a long night of rest. It was a good kind of exhaustion, though, the kind that was a good kind of exhaustion, though, the kind that made me feel I could take on whatever task the next day brought.

Tuesday

After learning we had no coffee filters in the lodge, I emerged into the kitchen expecting a long, caffeine-free struggle of a day. I found Sandra, our resident former Girl Scout, pouring a freshly brewed pot of coffee into a mug during breakfast.

"I used a paper towel as a filter," she said. What a relief.

At 8:50 a.m., we piled into the van and drove downhill to the opening of the Sitton's Gulch Trail, where our leaders, Larry, Bob and Gary waited for us to begin the hike up the trail close to the waterfalls near the end of the trail.

The waterfalls were a common site for accidents or dangerous situations, and people who got hurt had to be driven down by emergency vehicles or an ATV. Our task for the day was to create smooth rock paths for those vehicles to drive down, as well as lay a new pipe in the trail for water to flow out.

JILL O'BRIEN/IOWA STATE DAILY
POLICE BLOTTER

3.8.18

Jonathan Seth Saveraid, age 22, of 312 Hayward Ave Unit 202 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated and operation without registration at Lincoln Way and Campus Ave (reported at 1:27 a.m.).

An individual reported a motorcycle exited the ramp without paying at Memorial Union Park Ramp (reported at 2:45 p.m.).

Officers responded to a report of a suspicious substance at Durham Center (reported at 12:20 p.m.).

3.9.18

Hongchuan Li, age 22, of 3830 Marigold Dr – Ames, IA, was arrested on a warrant for disorderly conduct.

Shane Michael Lash, age 19, of 218 Richardson Ct Unit 301 - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with criminal mischief 5th degree at Linden Hall (reported at 11:42 a.m.).

James Michael Dillon, age 25, of 916 16th St - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with interference with official acts, possession of drug paraphernalia, and 4 counts of burglary 2nd degree at 3920 Maricopa Dr (reported at 11:52 p.m.).

3.11.18

No cases this date.

3.12.18

An officer initiated a drug related investigation (reported at 3:14 p.m.).

An individual reported being the victim of a fraud at Lagomarcino Hall (reported at 3:11 p.m.).

3.13.18

Officers checked on the welfare of an individual at Monument Union (reported at 12:20 a.m.).

An individual reported being harassed at 2311-103 Chamberlain St (reported at 2:44 p.m.).

3.14.18

Sunghyun Kim, age 24, of 2508 Blankenburg Dr Unit A - Ames, IA, was arrested and charged with operating while intoxicated at Stange Rd and Blankenburg Dr (reported at 5:14 a.m.).

An individual reported the theft of a registration sticker at 150 University Village (reported at 6:37 a.m.).
Jackson receiving excessive criticism

Scrutiny based on quarterback’s race

BY JOSHUA HOLST
@iowastatedaily.com

The NFL Draft is set to take place in April, and recently, the country’s best college football players went to Indianapolis to show off their skills and athleticism to 32 potential employers.

Five young men in particular are going to be scrutinized because they are considered the most talented prospects at the most demanding position in football: quarterback.

These young men are Josh Allen (Wyoming), Josh Rosen (UCLA), Sam Darnold (USC), Baker Mayfield (Oklahoma) and Lamar Jackson (Louisville).

The first four men I listed are all near certain to go in the first round, but a lot of questions have been asked of the last one, Jackson. He won the Heisman Trophy in 2016. He is doubtlessly the most dynamic athlete of the five, and he lit the college football world on fire with his electrifying speed and arm talent.

So why do so much mock drafts have him ranked the lowest of the five quarterbacks?

His numbers would suggest his 2017 season might have been even better than his 2016, but a less talented roster combined with Mayfield stringing together one of the best seasons of any college quarterback ever meant he missed out on back-to-back Heisman trophies.

Sure, he has a couple of mechanical issues. His feet are typically too close together when he’s in the pocket, and he doesn’t lift his elbow high enough in his throwing motion. These mechanical issues do negatively affect his accuracy. But they seem fixable with coaching, and even if they aren’t, these flaws haven’t served as much of a hindrance to him thus far.

The problem I have is that a number of other criticisms and requests NFL scouts and analysts have appear to be racially motivated.

First of all, during the combine, a few reports said a few NFL teams asked Jackson to run drills with the wide receivers. For those of you who don’t know, quarterback is a position that has been played predominantly by white players, while most wide receivers in the NFL are black.

Allen is big and can run, but nobody is saying he should give right end a shot. The idea that Jackson would make a good wide receiver simply because of his speed is a gross simplification, and taking such a dynamic player away from the position he has been playing his entire life is incredibly counterintuitive.

A number of scouts have pointed out that Jackson has issues with accuracy. However, his receivers dropped 12 percent of his passes and Allen, who is almost universally regarded as a top 10 pick, posted lower accuracy numbers than Jackson in college.

A few scouts have suggested Jackson can’t make the necessary reads for the NFL because the offense he ran at Louisville was not very complex. This is potentially the most racially motivated critique, and also one of the most easily contradicted. Louisville head coach Bobby Petrino’s offense is one of the more pro-style systems you are likely to find in college football, and Jackson ran that offense masterfully.

All of those critiques are levied against Jackson without being thrown toward his white competitors, even when the criticisms seem more appropriate for the other prospects.

What the problem seems to be is that NFL scouts have an idea of what their ideal quarterback is, and Jackson doesn’t fit it that tall, white and slow description.

Lamar Jackson, Louisville quarterback, is receiving criticism as the NFL Draft approaches. Columnist Joshua Holst argues this criticism is because Jackson does not fit the image of the ideal quarterback, a tall, white player.

Prioritize research at Iowa State

At one point, Iowa State was best known only for modernized agricultural research, but today it is renowned for groundbreaking research in many walks of life.

Since being established in 1858, Iowa state has made innovations throughout the years. From the founding of the College Herbarium in 1871 to the unveiling of Center for Statistics and Applications in Forensics Evidence in 2015, Iowa State’s research potential got a worldwide commendation.

Research has always remained a prime expedition and curiosity for Iowa State where researchers, including faculty, staff and students, are vigorously engaged in scholarly and creative activities that lead to discoveries, products and amenities.

The future of our society and humanity is inextricably linked with research which provides institutions like Iowa State with opportunities to discover, explain and evaluate new knowledge to make a difference in various walks of life.

Like other institutions, Iowa State is among those trying to address the emerging challenges in this 21st century by creating a thriving, healthy and sustainable future for the world through discovery, quest and disseminating new knowledge.

Research is a tool for building knowledge and efficient learning which directly impacts the quality of teaching by benefiting students with advanced information and proximity to their subject matter. It keeps an appropriate and modern curriculum up-to-date, which has an enormous and valuable long-term and far-reaching impact on our students.

Research keeps faculty stimulated, challenged, nurtures them with professional eminence and turns professed into better mentors when they can empathize with their students.

Research is also essential for the rational grooming of our students. It prepares them for future challenges and opportunities of practical life, as well as honing their critical thinking skills via careful, systematic procedures.

Iowa State is funded by different government organizations and private businesses to provide means to investigate various issues and design their solutions. Such financial grants are vital investments for modern laboratories, up to the minute libraries and current scientific gear.

Prioritizing more funding towards research will not only expand the study options for prospective students, but it will be instrumental in refining knowledge, generating jobs and bringing together diverse people from across the globe with common goals.

Feedback policy:
The Daily encourages discussion but does not guarantee its publication. We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter or online feedback.

Send your letters to letters@iowastatedaily.com. Letters must include the name(s), phone number(s), majors and/or group affiliation(s) and year in school of the author(s).

Phone numbers and addresses will not be published.

Online feedback may be used if first name and last name, major and year in school are included in the post. Feedback posted online is eligible for print in the Iowa State Daily.

Opinions expressed in columns and letters are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Daily or organizations with which the author(s) are associated.
The Cyclone Hockey team lines up on center ice after its first game of the season. The 2017-18 season started strong but ended with a disappointing loss in the ACHA National Tournament.

It wasn’t a year anyone associated with the Cyclone Hockey team expected.

Sure, things started out the way the team hoped it would, with a preseason top five ranking in the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) polls and an 11-2-1-0 start to the season.

However, that promising start ended with a thud for the Cyclones after a 3-2 quarterfinal loss to Robert Morris University in the ACHA National Tournament, which put an end to one of the most trying seasons for the Cyclones in recent memory.

“This is certainly the most disappointing season that I’ve ever been a part of in my time here,” said head coach and general manager Jason Fairman.

From an outsider’s perspective, one might wonder how a national tournament berth and top 12 finish in the ACHA computer polls could be considered a disappointment.

Well, it’s relative to expectations. Before the season even started and throughout its course, players and coaches repeatedly mentioned how the team believed it should compete for a national championship every year.

With the Cyclones’ recent track record, it’s hard to blame them for having that mentality. With a national championship appearance in 2015 and a stint as the No. 1 team in the country in 2016, there is a certain standard the team has set for itself.

This year, for a multitude of reasons, the team didn’t live up to those standards.

To be sure, there were flashes. The team had a number of wins against top teams, including a combined three against national semifinalists in Illinois and Lindenwood, and the Cyclones’ 10 wins against teams ranked in the top 10 proved they could consistently compete with just about anyone.

On the other side of that, despite occasional strong showings, the team frequently had consistency issues.

A great game one night was frequently followed with an equally poor outing the next night, much to the frustration of the coaches and players.

“We had trouble with consistency all year,” Fairman said. “We just could never seem to put together good performances on back-to-back nights.”

Although plenty of that was their own doing, Fairman also mentioned that factors outside of the team’s control couldn’t be ignored either.

The Cyclones were decimated with injuries for a good chunk of the year, particularly late in the fall semester, and there were several off-ice issues that Iowa State was forced to deal with privately.

This led to a considerable shortage in depth, which, when coupled with the ACHA’s toughest strength of schedule, factored into the derailment of a talented team that had high expectations. If there is a silver lining, however, it’s that a lot of that talent is coming back.

The Cyclones only graduate three seniors from their Division I team (albeit, this includes a team captain in Kody Reuter and nearly all of their experience at goalie), and the team is expected to be loaded with seniors from what Fairman called his “most heralded” recruiting class back in 2015.

This includes forwards like leading scorers Tony Uglem, Aaron Azvedo and Colton Kramer, along with key defensemen like Nick Sandy and Jake Ayres.

This means the expectations may be even higher going into next season, despite the disappointing end to this season.

The three aforementioned forwards, in particular, all of whom have played on the same line together for multiple seasons; will be expected to produce big numbers once again. According to Azvedo, just how big those numbers get is usually determined in the offseason.

“We create those opportunities with a lot of training in the offseason,” Azvedo said. “Just kind of working on small areas and creating that time and space.”

In addition to the team’s veterans, the Cyclones are also expecting big contributions from this freshman class going into their sophomore season.

Players like Dylan Goggin, Jared Erickson and Justin Paulson gradually improved as the season went on this year, to the point where they became key contributors who consistently ended up in the score column on a nightly basis near the end of the season.

That production, coupled with their combined work ethics, earned them the confidence and trust of their teammates and coaches. Now, they’ll be expected to carry that momentum into the offseason and, hopefully, have it lead to larger contributions next season.

“Our rookies worked extremely hard all year,” Uglem said. “They’re a group of guys that you really don’t have to tell to come to the rink and work; they’re always just there and ready to go.”

That type of mentality, not just from the freshmen, but from the team as a whole, will come in handy when the team eventually gets to its offseason workouts.

For now, however, Fairman says he and the team will use the season’s end to slightly decompress and, in his particular case, recruit. The Cyclones’ head coach admits he hasn’t thought ahead to next season as of yet, and he plans to let things sink in before going forward.

Eventually, though, the team will get back to the grind and the new season will be here before they know it. With a seemingly loaded senior class and a maturing group of young players, the team is feeling a sense of urgency to make a run with its current core.

Because of that, even with some questions and inexperience in net, outsider expectations will undoubtedly be high going into next season. However, as the team has made perfectly clear time and again, they won’t be as high as what the Cyclones expect from themselves.

“Our first goal is to win the regular season title, then obviously the (Central States Collegiate Hockey League) tournament title and then the national championship,” Fairman said. “We want to check those boxes in order.”
Wednesday

“The prettiest part of the park is at the bottom.”

This was one of the first things Greg, one of the Friends, said to us on our hike down the Bear Creek Trail to our first work site of the day. The trail wound downhill to another secluded river spot and was marked by different colored pin flags that had a designated task assigned to them, like re-establishing benches cut in the trail, installing knicks or building smooth rock paths to act as steps for hikers to get over hills on a trail.

It was on Wednesday that my hands began to blister and my muscle began to cramp. However, more water breaks and time to rest and reset my feet allowed me to work longer without overextending myself.

When lunch rolled around, we had to hike an extra half mile down to “the prettiest part of the park,” another river with boulders to sit and admire the view. I decided to join a few other girls — Jenna, Jayna and Natalie — on one of the larger boulders directly under the sun, so I could stay warm and lay out for half an hour or so.

When it was time to head back to work, we began helping one another across the little rocks we used to carry us across in the first place. I had made it across, but before we were all there, I heard a splash and a gasp behind me. Natalie had fallen into the river, her entire left side drenched in water. We almost got lost twice, but when we reached our next task, we decided to clear a path.

It was then time for Bob to test out our work. The John Deere drove downhill slowly, then came to a grinding halt on top of the pipe. Bob tried to start the tractor again.

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“Even if the book is only $10, if they’re not using it there’s still no value.”
- Heather Dean, course materials manager for the University Bookstore

“Even if the book is only $10, if they’re not using it there’s still no value,” Dean said. “Not very many”

Dean said publishers set prices of their books and the University Book Store upcharge is only enough to cover operating costs.

“I think all the intro classes for those have those really outrageous prices because the editions change all the time,” West said. “Students are always expected to buy the newest edition.”

Other students felt the newest editions were often too similar to the prior editions to warrant a steep price increase.

Erin Wagner, 22, is a senior in agricultural business and animal science. Wagner said the University Bookstore should be selling, and buying, past editions of textbooks that are new enough to be used.

“In most cases, either the professor understands that if they’re heard new, they’re really, really expensive, and they’ll allow for that one edition [older],” Wagner said. “For the most part, a lot of that information doesn’t change.”

This article was in partnership with an Iowa Watch project to examine textbook affordability. Caitlin Yamada, Naye Valenzuela and Alex Connor contributed reporting to this article.