

Garage sales at EMU

Every weekday afternoon, Eastern Michigan University puts an array of its surplus equipment and supplies on sale, turning its cavernous surplus warehouse into a giant garage sale.

Everything from televisions to hide-a-beds to old gym lockers can be purchased between the hours of 1-4 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. "We've got all kinds of good stuff that's very reasonable," says John Langer, property control manager. "It's reasonable because the initial purchase price is low and if the buyers have to have items repaired, they can afford to."

Hide-a-beds, he says, are a bargain at \$15. "Sure, they're in deplorable condition," he says, "but for that price, you can afford to recover them."

Other items may be in perfect working condition, but may be obsolete for use in a university office or department. Such items find their way to the surplus warehouse, where a price tag is attached.

"We've got a black-and-white TV for \$25," Langer points out. "It works fine; it just takes a little longer warming up because it's the older variety. And we've got an excellent blueprint machine. We're selling vacuum sweepers from the dorms for a dollar each."

AN EMU EMPLOYEE for 10 years, Langer is the man who determines the prices of surplus items. Prices of some items, he says, are based on the item's trade-in allowance, as is the case with typewriters and adding machines. Other items are priced at about 10 per cent of their acquisition cost.

Whatever an item is sold for, Langer notes that the department from whence it came gets credit from the sale, minus about 10 to 15 per cent "commission" for the surplus warehouse.

"We can give them (departments and offices) credit toward their account," Langer says, "but we can't give the credit until we get the item here and we sell it. We get rid of the junk that we used to send to the dump. And we get a few dollars for each item."

Langer gets as much as \$250 for a reconditioned IBM electric typewriter and as little as a dime for burned out fluorescent tubes. Stoves go for as little as \$3 and as much as \$15. A good refrigerator from a family student apartment runs about \$25.

THE EMU property control manager says he's in the business of providing needed items for the public, faculty, staff and especially students, who might not have the capital to make a sizable investment in a "major purchase" item. But another facet of his job is to entice potential buyers into using their imagination for items which may be overlooked.

So, if you're in the market for an old telephone, some antique light fixtures, barber-style classroom seats, used copy machines, a bulletin board, a youth's wheel chair, an old oak desk—or much, much more, see Langer, Eastern's "garage sale man." The surplus warehouse is located adjacent to Central Stores at 1215 Huron River Drive near Cornell Street. For more information, phone 487-4197.



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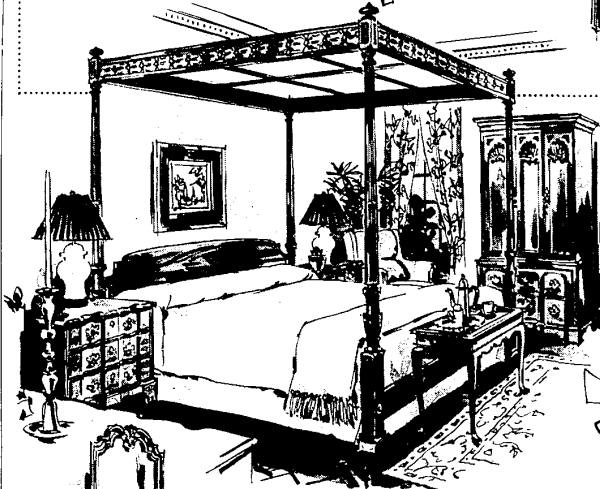
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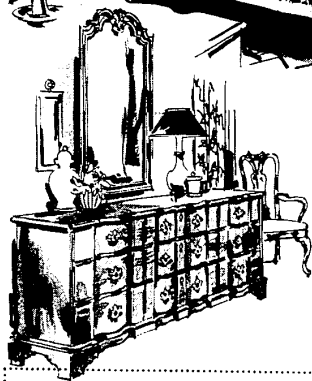
Dining Table	Sale \$1110
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Sideboard	Sale \$ 810



•Henredon's Folio Fourteen

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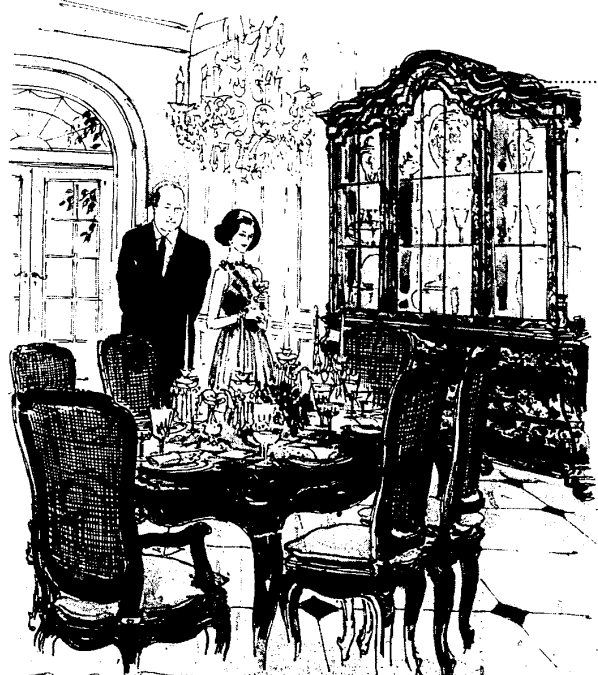
Queen-size Canopy Bed	Sale \$888	King-size Canopy Bed	Sale \$ 944
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