



Bargain Barn employee Pilar Rivera eyes the used merchandise for sale at the University of California, Davis surplus outlet.

Christine Baker/DAILY REPUBLIC PHOTOS

# FOR SALE

## CHEAP

From fire engines to skating rinks,  
you can get it at the Bargain Barn



Part-time worker Colleen Simon of Vacaville, top, shows off the Bargain Barn's 1965 UC Davis fire truck, on sale for a mere \$6,000.

English major Otis Caldwell, right, helps move furniture in front of the "barn."



By Shawn Miller  
DAILY REPUBLIC

**U**niversity of California, Davis' Bargain Barn, which sells used equipment, furniture and university supplies, actually sold a barn once.

The structure was relatively cheap—\$3,000 or so. The hard part was moving it. Luckily, the barn was built in sections.

"We sold the whole barn," said Vacaville's Colleen Simon, who works at the Bargain Barn and sold the sectional barn. "We had to have it gone in two weeks because of new construction. I went through friends who had land."

### Bargain Barn

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Monday through Friday

At California Avenue and LaRue Road on the UC Davis Campus. From Interstate 80 east, take the UC Davis exit, turn left at the stop sign onto Old Davis Road, and keep going until you see the sign for Central Receiving.

(530) 752-2145

[ucdavis.edu/bargainbarn](http://ucdavis.edu/bargainbarn)

Universities buy lots of stuff, from furniture to computers to scientific equipment to art work and everything else in between. But stuff—like love—seldom lasts.

The Bargain Barn—really a medium-sized warehouse on the UC Davis campus—is where all this stuff goes to die (and be reborn) after it's outlived its usefulness.

When departments at Davis decide their computers are too slow or that they need new microscopes or that their 1950s-era desks are no longer the height of

cool, the Bargain Barn resells the offending item. The barn is run by Simon and Pilar Rivera with help from various UC students.

"We're both crazy about junk now," Simon said. Buyers at the barn include various goods dealers, other university departments and the general public, who recycle back into use the deposited articles, usually at great savings.

And saving cash is a top priority for schools in a state facing a \$35 billion budget deficit. (Or is it a \$26 billion deficit? Talk about economic uncertainty.)

"The budget thing is really starting to hit departments," Simon said, noting that, while hulking pea-green filing cabinets aren't the most slightly, they cost \$80 at the Bargain Barn rather than \$300 new.

The delight of Simon's workplace lies not only in the potential cost-saving it provides, but in the sheer oddness of the items for sale. A university with nearly 30,000 students, after all, acquires



## Barn

From Page D1

some strange items in the course of teaching, research and outfitting classrooms, laboratories and offices.

"One of the strangest items at the Bargain Barn -- and the most difficult to sell -- was an inline skating rink that sold for \$30,000 to a group in Chico. I think they're still picking it up. We tried to sell it forever," Simon said.

The current champion of hard-to-sell items is an old fire truck that was retired from the UC Davis Fire Department after its 100-foot ladder failed to be reapproved for use.

The truck was originally listed at \$15,000, but for \$6,000 it can now be yours. A word of caution, however: the truck requires two drivers, making it slightly less than practical.

"It would be perfect for a small volunteer fire department," Simon said.

"I hear we might be getting an airplane, but we haven't gotten it listed yet," Simon said.

And anyone in need of a spectrophotometer -- a machine that measures light wavelengths -- can pick them up among several currently available at the barn.

"Here's another spectrophotometer," Simon said surveying her stock. "We're sitting high on those right now."

UC Davis isn't the only university that sells its surplus. UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, Fresno State and many other universities sell their extra goods and have Web sites for the purpose as well. Oregon State University maintains a Web site with links to university surplus sites throughout all 50 states.

With all the specialized scientific equipment available at the Bargain Barn, it's not surprising that it does business with other universities, especially now that the Bargain Barn is online.

"Online has really picked up for us. Pepperdine and Cornell have purchased things," Simon said. Cornell bought a \$30,000 microscope.

Simon said a number of the scientific purchases are from



Christine Baker/DAILY REPUBLIC

University departments give their PC and Mac computers to the barn because they have been replaced by newer, faster models.

"Some people are doing projects on their own. There are some mad scientists out there," she said.

Bartering is part of the Bargain Barn experience. Departmental trying to sell a piece of merchandise through the Bargain Barn set an initial price, but if the item isn't purchased within 60 days, customers are welcome to make a counter-offer.

Medical equipment from the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento is popular and ever-present at the barn. Labor and delivery beds only cost \$300, though regular hospital beds are even cheaper.

"We sold a hospital bed to a man who had his leg amputated. He was really thrilled to get a \$50 bed," Simon said.

If you want a gurney -- and who doesn't want a gurney? -- it'll set you back \$3,000.

Not all purchases are trivial, however.

A group of Filipinos -- Simon doesn't know their affiliation -- purchases medical equipment in volume and sends it back to the Philippines. A local dentist does the same thing with dental supplies.

Veterinarians buy old X-ray machines.

Computers sell about as well as anything at the Bargain Barn, owing largely to the rate at which they become obsolete.

Kathy Keatley Garvey of Vacaville is a writer for the UC Integrated Pest Management Program who's frequented the Bargain Barn since 1986. Her

son, Jim, taught computer science to 4-Hers and Garvey got the computers he used for teaching at the barn.

For \$5, "Once I got an entire lot of computers for \$5," Garvey wrote in an e-mail. "One guy, standing there when I was loading them into our pickup truck, asked 'What did you pay for them?' 'Five,' I said. 'Five hundred! That's a bargain!' he said. 'No, I said, 'Five dollars.'"

Simon said Macintosh enthusiasts frequent the barn looking for vintage machines. Computer dealers are also common, looking to buy cheap machines for spare parts.

"I know some computer folks who search for old computer parts when their systems break down. They can keep their systems running, thanks to Bargain Barn. You can buy an old serial mouse for a Mac for a song," Garvey said.

Many a student has come into the Bargain Barn looking for furniture on the cheap.

"We don't carry a lot of apartment furniture," Simon said.

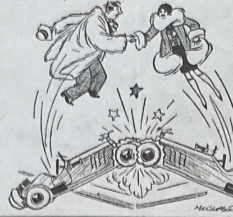
A desk is a desk, however, especially at 50 percent off.

"Equipment comes in every day. Sometimes it looks like a completely different place day to day," Simon said.

"You just never know what we'll have at the Bargain Barn. I mean, look, a conveyor belt," Simon said pointing to a photo of a conveyor belt for sale. "Just what everyone needs."

Shaun Miller can be reached at smiller@dailypress.net.

## How did you meet?



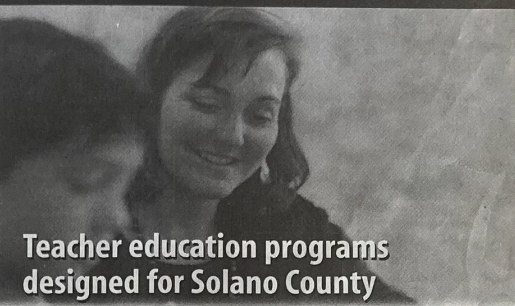
Were you dating your spouse's best friend and had a change of heart? Were you involved in a fender bender that ended in marriage?

The Daily Republic is looking for unique stories on how longtime couples have met.

Please send your story, in 100 words or less to Amy Maginnis-Honey, c/o the Daily Republic, PO Box 47, Fairfield, Calif. 94533 or e-mail them to her at amaginnis@dailypress.net.

The deadline is 3 p.m. Jan. 30.

## DOMINICAN UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA



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Are you teaching with an Emergency Permit or Pre-Intern Certificate? Dominican offers Intern Programs for multiple-subject, single-subject, and special education credentials.

Located in Solano County, our credential program allows you to teach by day and earn your credential in the evenings. Student teaching program option is also available.

## Attend an Information Session:

Thursday, January 23, 6:30 p.m.  
Solano County Office of Education  
5100 Business Center Drive, Fairfield (Next to Costco)

For more information or to RSVP, call 1-888-323-6763  
www.dominican.edu/academics/education



30 Acadia Avenue  
San Rafael, CA 94901  
www.dominican.edu

## Be a part of local youth soccer!

You need not be an athlete to enjoy the fun and excitement of youth soccer.

The Fairfield Youth Soccer League is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing youth soccer programs for children ages 4 to 18. The league is open to all children, regardless of skill level, and provides a safe and fun environment for children to learn and play soccer. The league is open to all children, regardless of skill level, and provides a safe and fun environment for children to learn and play soccer.

Check out our website at <http://www.fyssl.org> or call (707) 427-2283 for further information.

## BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT

Solano County Chapter  
PO Box 2225, Suisun City, CA 94585-5225

Janice Reed - President (707) 552-9704

When: 1st and 3rd Saturday of Each Month at 10:30am

Where: Country Waffles  
2390 N. Texas Street  
Fairfield, CA  
(707) 425-1442

Sheila Johnson - 1st VP (707) 422-1014

Deborah Ford - Membership Chairperson (707) 421-8311

For information on how you can advertise in DAILY REPUBLIC's Clubs & Organizations Directory, call Kim Smith, Advertising Representative, at (707) 427-6922 or e-mail: [ksmith@dailypress.net](mailto:ksmith@dailypress.net)

**National Council of Negro Women, Inc.**  
1800 N. G Street, Suite 100  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
Carolyn Pleasant - President  
(707) 427-8219

**When:**  
2nd Thursday of each month  
7:00 pm

**Where:**  
Solano City Senior Center  
318 Marguerite Drive  
Suisun City, California

**Cashier Pleasant - 1st VP**  
(707) 427-8219

**Nichelle Harrison**  
Membership Chairperson  
(707) 427-8219

**Cribbage Players**  
Come join the Solano 29ers Cribbage Club

**Thursdays - 6:30 pm**  
Fairfield Senior Center

**Play 9 Games vs 9 Opponents.**

**Pres: Scott Miller 437-3353**  
**VP: Jackie Doppel 447-7568**

**North Wind Quilters**

**Meeting Place:**  
Fairfield Senior Center,  
1200 Civic Center,  
Tuesdays 9am-3pm.

**For More Information,**  
call 426-5745 or 426-4016  
Quilters of all ages invited!

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
Join the Adventure!

**Tigers:** 1st Grade  
**Cub Scouts:** 2nd-5th Grade  
**Boy Scouts:** 6th Grade - Age 17  
Venturing: (Young men & women) Age 14-20

**Local Info, Toll Free**  
**1 (877) 702-2162**  
<http://www.usbsa.org/scouts>

**DAV**  
Disabled American Veterans  
Suisun-Fairfield Chapter 81

**When:**  
3rd Saturday of the month  
No Meetings June or December

**Where:**  
Veterans Memorial Building  
427 Main Street, Suisun City  
Time: 10:00 AM

**Contact:**  
John P. Williams, 425-7035

**Solano Land Trust**

Volunteer opportunities throughout the County in Parks and Open Space

- Trail maintenance and construction
- Restoration projects
- Docent hikes and rides
- Single-Sector Projects
- Environmental Education Field Trips

For more information call (707) 432-0150 or [www.solanolandtrust.org](http://www.solanolandtrust.org)

**Sons of Norway**

Sons of Norway is North America's oldest and largest Nordic-American society providing a wide range of social, heritage, cultural, fraternal, and financial benefits. We meet the 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Vacaville.

**Come Join Us!**  
Call 422-3051

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF RETIRED FEDERAL EMPLOYEES**

**NAREF Employees & Retirees**  
NAREF Chapter 1529 meets the 1st Tuesday of each month.

**NEXT MEETING**  
January 7, 2003  
2:00 PM  
FAIRFIELD SENIOR CENTER  
1200 Civic Center Drive  
Fairfield, CA 94533  
For information contact  
Bobbie Matthews 429-2403

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Saturdays, doors open 4pm - 8pm  
Game 6:30 pm. Regular games 7pm.

**BOOSTER MEETING**  
4th Monday of the month, 7:30 p.m.  
Fairfield High School Band Room  
All Boosters & Alumni Welcome  
For Information Call 438-9065

**SCARLET BRIGADE WEBSITE:**  
[www.scarletbrigade.com](http://www.scarletbrigade.com)

**THE KIWANIS CLUB OF FAIRFIELD**

Join over 35 active Kiwanis members for lunch every Thursday of noon of Holiday Inn, Fairfield. The Kiwanis Club of Fairfield is Fairfield's most active community service organization, providing a variety of positive youth activities and services.

Join us, and see how fulfilling Kiwanis membership can be for you and your community.

**For More Information, Contact:**  
Brian Kiermoe  
**707/427-6920**

**MEETINGS monthly,**  
4th Wednesday at 7:00 pm.  
St. Paul's UMC,  
101 West Street, Vacaville  
Information & Support!  
For relatives of gays & lesbians nationwide, 1 family in 4 has gay or lesbian members.  
Info: 707-448-1010

**Fairfield-Suisun Newcomers Club**  
Meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month 10:00AM

**Tours, Bridge, Sports, Crafts and More.**

**For Information:**  
Maureen Smith  
(707) 399-8878

**Fairfield-Suisun Orators Toastmaster**  
Meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm  
Rockville Presbyterian Fellowship  
4177 Susan Valley Rd  
Fairfield, CA 94534

**Vaca Morning Toastmaster**  
Meets every Monday at 7:00am  
Kane's Restaurant, Medical Clinic  
4700 Vaca Valley Parkway, Suite 100  
Vacaville, CA 94988

**TOPS**  
Take Off Pounds Sensibly... and that's exactly what has made us the weight loss support group of choice for thousands.

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Meeting... 7:00 pm at  
Senior Center, 318 Marguerite Dr., Suisun City, CA

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,**  
call 427-2175  
ALL ARE WELCOME

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Organized activities for active singles

- Wednesday night events
- Friday night TGIFs
- Weekend trips
- Dinner-dancing groups
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- Discos and
- Picnics and bicycling groups
- Seasonal dinner-dances

Call us for **OUTLINE (438-1307)** for current activities.  
Call 438-1307 or 448-1333 for one month's free calendar & membership packet.

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIRFIELD-SUISUN**  
Meets every Tuesday, noon lunch at the Holiday Inn, Fairfield.

**Pres. Fred Wold: 447-6431**  
**Vice Pres. Earl Kilmer**  
**Secretary Bud Siemens: 446-6303**

**S.O.S. SINGLES 30+**

S.O.S. is a singles group whose purpose is to have fun, make new friends and enjoy both indoor and outdoor activities. Several events are scheduled each month.

**For more information call:**  
Sharon 446-2455  
Ginger 445-9018

**CHRISTIAN SUPPORT GROUP**

**YOUR ROAD TO RECOVERY**  
"A Time for Healing in a Place of Peace"

**Tuesday Evenings**  
@ 7:00 p.m.

**New Hope Church of the Nazarene**  
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Fairfield, CA 94533

**SWIM**  
Ages 5-18

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Year round swim program  
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**RUSH RANCH EDUCATIONAL COUNCIL**

The Rush Ranch Educational Council conducts a program for third grade classes who come to Rush Ranch to learn about the culture of the Pomo, the Native Americans who lived in this area 200 years ago.

New decks are needed to teach or help with the activities and projects undertaken by the children. The program is held on Tues. mornings in spring and fall.

People who would enjoy working with 8-10 year old children should contact Don Tynes at 428-0738.

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