

Penguins, Pelicans and Giant Cardinals

by HUGH LLOYD

University bookstores are inevitably the butt of campus criticism, the most frequent and often justified complaint being that book prices are too high, in some instances higher in campus bookstores than in those of the surrounding areas.

In an attempt to find out more details about the actual operations of the bookstore, Mrs. Logue, manager of the store for fourteen years was approached. She pointed out that primarily the bookstore is in operation to supply students with texts.

A professor, assigned to a certain course, will choose a text or texts he feels are suitable to the needs of the course. He then submits his list of texts to the bookstore sometime before the June preceeding the next academic year. The bookstore then orders as many copies as the professor thinks necessary. Then, with a reasonable amount of luck (no rail or postal strikes for example) the books should arrive by mid to late August. They are then unpacked, priced, and put on the shelves ready to be bought, returned, lost, and generally employed.

20% Mark Up

The general principle of the UNB bookstore is an automatic mark-up of 20%, a figure that is widely used on campuses across the country. Immediately one asks where does all this money go — a 20% profit is not to be scoffed at — especially when it is student money. The bookstore does the following: it pays the salaries of all its ten full time employees and three part-time students employed for three week periods at the beginning and end of each academic year. Next, it pays for all shipping charges of books and materials.

electricity and phone bills (some of which can run high with frequent and necessary calls to publishing centres). All fixtures, i.e. tables, shelves, display cases, of-

fice furniture and equipment, cash registers, in fact, everything that is not an integral part of the buildings itself, as well as ac-

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Mrs. Logue has been manager of the campus bookstore for fourteen years. Much of the success of the store has been attributed to her sound and sensible management.