

Net surplus \$682,000

Large profits for U of A Bookstore

by Cam McCulloch

The University of Alberta Bookstore ended the 1985-86 school year with a net surplus of \$682,000. According to Jim Shinkaruk, Student Representative on the Board of Governors, the Bookstore accumulated most of this profit in the past year alone.

\$400,000 of the surplus will be spent on a new cash register system for the Bookstore.

Bookstore manager Jim Malone defended the surplus by stating, "We don't have access to capital funding like other University departments so we have to generate our own funds. This year we pro-

jected opening the new Medical Science bookstore and buying the new cash register system to replace the old system." Malone added that the old magnetic system is obsolete, with parts no longer available to keep the machines operable.

Students' Union President Dave

Oginski concedes the necessity of the new cash registers. "\$400,000 is quite the price but we have to be reasonable about their equipment requests. I'm all for it if it makes things smoother, like shorter line-ups."

However, Oginski is suspicious of the way the bookstore made so much money in so short a time. "I suspect that the bookstore, expecting renovations, just went out and made an 'accidental' profit to cover it. There's no way one year's students should pay for new machines."

Jim Shinkaruk agrees that the cost should have been spread out over more than one year. "The Bookstore should have a long-range profit plan, say five to ten years. If they made \$100,000 I wouldn't complain."

According to Associate Vice-President Administration Allan Rennie, the Bookstore does have a long-range plan whereby the pro-

fits of one year cushion the possible losses of another year. Rennie says, "If the Bookstore constantly profits they must examine areas where they might be marking up too greatly and perhaps reduce prices in order to reduce profits."

Since the books cannot be reprinted this year the Bookstore plans to sell manuals over four years to make the reduction in prices significant.

There are also plans to offer a used book service. Though the details have not been worked out, the Bookstore may buy books for as much as 50 per cent of the original cost.

Discussions continue between the SU and the Bookstore in an effort to prevent a huge profit in the future.

The Bookstore will report any progress in this area to the Board of Governors at their next meeting October 10.



U of A bookstore patrons: leave your cash at the door.

photo Rob Schmidt

Complaints: book prices

by Cam McCulloch

One of the most common complaints Jim Shinkaruk receives as Student Representative on the Board of Governors is the high prices at the U of A Bookstore.

Shinkaruk initiated an informal survey recently and found two common concerns among students:

1. Books are too expensive;
2. Some books prescribed by professors are not actually used.

SU President Dave Oginski echoes these sentiments. "Assigned books are not always used or 1 or 2 chapters are used. These books

should be in the Reserve Reading Room in Cameron Library."

Oginski said that he and VP Internal Craig Cooper walked through the Bookstore to look at prices. And while the Bookstore claims an average book price of about \$25, "we thought maybe \$40-\$45 was closer for an average."

Oginski added that changing editions was a problem. "Profs should compare old with new editions and advise students on the difference. Perhaps the old editions are still useful in some instances."

"We want to run a survey of

about twelve titles from 18-20 campus bookstores across Canada. We want to do this within a week."

In a preliminary comparison with the University of British Columbia bookstore, Oginski and Cooper found the U of A Bookstore to be on par with prices. "In one instance our book was \$20 cheaper."

This would have to come as good news to Jim Shinkaruk who says while "the service is appreciated, overpricing isn't."

Results of the cross-Canada bookstore survey should be available within a few weeks.



FEES DUE By September 30

The last day for payment of fees is **September 30th**. If a student is paying by instalments (terms), the amount of the first instalment is the First Term assessment and the last day for payments is **September 30th**; the amount of the second instalment is the Second Term assessment plus a \$5.00 instalment charge and the last day for payment is **January 16th**.

A penalty of \$15.00 per month will be assessed for each month after the last day for regular payment of fees in which a student's fees remain outstanding. Students are reminded that the University cannot accept responsibility for the actions of the post office if payments are not received by a deadline date. Also, if payment is dishonored and not replaced by the appropriate deadline date, the penalty will apply.

If fees are to be paid from some form of student assistance, please refer to Section 15.2.3 of the 1986/87 TIMETABLE ADDENDUM AND FEE INFORMATION booklet. Heritage scholars may call the Fees Division, Office of the Comptroller for clarification of policy, if uncertain.

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