

# Bookstore shortage

by Mary Ruth Olson

It's the third week of classes and still, many students are unable to obtain textbooks due to shortages at the U of A Bookstore.

This summer's mail strike, course overenrolment and distribution problems are major factors in the book shortage.

"This year's mail strike made it difficult to transmit orders to the publishers" says J. C. Malone, U of A Bookstore manager.

Most of the small orders arrive by mail and many of last spring's requisitions are only now being delivered.

Last year's student enrolment estimates were, in many

cases, lower than the actual number now registered which also adds to the textbook shortage.

"The professors submit requisitions with the estimated student enrolment, but, it could be more, less or equal to the actual enrolment" says Malone. "Any student could buy a text for any course too" he added.

In some cases, the texts ordered are out of print and the whole process of ordering must be repeated.

Economic factors are also contributing to the delays and shortages. Current interest rates have forced many publishers to

carry smaller inventories.

"The availability of books is not only becoming worse here (the U of A Bookstore) but at the publishers and the distributors," says Bill Quick, U of A Bookstore's assistant manager.

The Bookstore advises students to keep checking for their texts since shipments are arriving daily.

The second term should show an improvement in this problem.

"It is a totally different situation in the second term as we are fairly sure of the registration figures" says Malone.



The Bookstore probably still hasn't got your books.

## Campus Bank of Montreal pulls out of student loans

VANCOUVER (CUP) — The only campus bank at the University of British Columbia will no longer process Canada Student Loans, forcing students to travel more than 10 miles off campus to a downtown branch for that service.

The two branches of the Bank of Montreal located on campus will no longer handle loans, with bank spokespeople citing rising service costs and the federal government's failure to give the bank more than a 15 per

cent return on the loans as the cause.

But UBC Awards Officer Byron Hender said the bank's decision to centralize their loans downtown as a method of discouraging students from getting their CSL's with the Bank of Montreal "is not an illogical conclusion to draw."

Although the bank did leave two loans officers on campus to interview loan applicants, their office was in a very obscure part of the student union building (SUB)

and their presence was not advertised.

Hender said the bank originally wanted to close the SUB branch altogether and encourage students to go off campus. "It wasn't a workable proposal," he said.

Instead, loans were moved off campus, home accounts are being phased out in the other campus branch, and three Instabanks will be installed in the SUB branch.

Hender said the bank has

recently reviewed student customer allegiance. The bank wanted to attract a certain type of customer as students, hoping they would remain customers upon graduation, but bank officials "reviewed the history of that and found they weren't retaining those customers," he said.

In B.C. the Bank of Montreal handles more student loans than any other banking institution and "they're not developing customer allegiance," Hender said. "The banking community is also becoming increasingly unhappy with the administration of the

Canada Student Loan program."

But personal banking manager Jim Armstrong denied that was a contributing factor to the decision, and claimed the new loan location was not inconvenient.

"We think that the new location provides fair access to all students in the lower mainland" he said. "It all depends on the individual whether it's an inconvenience."

"When we look at the source of payments on our CSL's we're not certain we're getting a high level of retention."



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