

No slow motion during bookrush

By TOM WOLFE
Of the Emerald

Probably no one would like to see the University switch to a semester system more than the textbook crew at the University Bookstore now finishing up winter term rush.

"I've been here 11 years," says Otto Henrickson, text department manager, "but I usually count by terms. This one's no different."

It began with the first day of registration and ends 14 days and eight hours later, Tuesday at 5 p.m. By that hour more than 100,000 textbooks of 3,500 titles will have migrated from publisher to student desk top.

Half-a-million student dollars will facilitate the flow, predicts James Williams, Bookstore general manager.

During rush, waves of students flow in and out of the store like the tide. Twenty-five of them remain in

the store through the day to help regular staff cope with the increased workload — they are rushers.

They, like Henrickson, spend most of their time in motion, restocking shelves, guiding weary patrons and scrambling to fill late orders from professors who misjudged the size of the classes.

Depending on the publisher, "it will take from a few days to more than a week to get late orders shipped in" says Henrickson. Cost is high since the books often have to be flown from the East Coast.

Inevitably, a few of these orders will be mixed up; the wrong book or the wrong number of books will arrive. Some publishers are notoriously slow and will simply take a week to get an order sent, Henrickson laments.

For students, it may seem that professors perpetually underestimate the number of textbooks

needed for their courses. But overall, Henrickson estimates "30 to 35 percent of the books we order are never sold." Most of

those have to be shipped back to the publisher.

On the average, this reshipping costs three to four percent of the

book price.

Any solutions to this waste? "Not really," Henrickson says. "Some people have suggested a pre-registration system (for students) but this wouldn't be scheduled soon enough to help us. Then, with drop-adds you never know what's going to happen."

An additional problem is that professors seldom deliver their textbook orders to the bookstore on time. The suggested deadline for the current term, Sept. 15, passed with about 70 percent of professors submitting no orders at all, Henrickson says.

When unexpected problems with their orders come up there may just not be time to make changes, says Henrickson.

A few warnings to rushees. The last day to return unused texts with a cash register receipt is Jan. 21.

Used books may be resold to the bookstore through the term at half-price if the book will be used later. Bookstore employees reshelve them and charge three-fourths the original price.

The bookstore also has a notorious reputation for being rough on shoplifters, sporting a yearly average of 100 to 125 arrests, says Williams.

Many of these occur during the winter months when five-finger discounters are wearing extra clothing with lots of pockets, ostensibly to guard against the cold.

Value of the take makes no difference. A student spent four days in jail last year after being caught with a 50-cent ruler he didn't pay for.

He, like most other offenders, was nabbed by undercover security guards hired to keep the merchandise from being covertly escorted out the door.



Photo by Erich Boekelheide

This student keeps up the fast pace necessary to breeze through the vast array of books (only to find he must face a long line of fellow book buyers). The book rush is almost over says bookstore personnel enthusiastically and students can look forward to another term curled up by the fire with a 'good' book.

Too many voters bring about new voting precincts in Eugene

By PAUL WALDSCHMIDT
Of the Emerald

A new University area voting precinct has been created by the Lane County elections division. Ralph Hoehne, county elections manager, said Tuesday the new precinct — No. 211 — was created out of parts of University precincts 207 and 209.

More than 13,600 voters will be shuffled to new precincts throughout the county. Hoehne said the affected voters will be notified by mail this week.

Most of the reshuffling, which resulted in the creation of 15 new precincts and the deletion of two, was limited to the Eugene area.

Hoehne said the shifting of precinct boundaries was necessary because state law prevents precincts from including more than

1,500 voters.

The two deleted precincts are Eugene 513 and 607. Incorporating the precinct changes, Lane County now has 170 voting precincts, with 142,850 registered voters.

According to the latest county voter registration figures, 82,240 voters are registered as Democrats, 44,734 as Republicans, 3,282 as Independents and 12,594 as Non-partisans.

Don Penfold, director of the county's General Services Department, said the county tried to identify areas where population increases were expected and to leave room for additional voters. No changes were made in county commissioner or state representative districts.

According to the county elections division, most of the precinct changes occurred in the south and

southwest areas of Eugene and in the Bethel, Santa Clara and Elmira areas.

Penfold said the next precinct boundary adjustment period will be in January, 1980.

Besides the University precinct, the new precincts are Eugene 303, formed from parts of Eugene 301 and 315; Eugene 317, from parts of Eugene 319; Eugene 409, from parts of Eugene 411 and 413; Eugene 417, from part of Eugene 415; Eugene 423, from part of 419; Eugene 517, from part of Eugene 521; Eugene 519, from part of 533; Eugene 547, from part of Eugene 551; Eugene 609, from parts of Eugene 513 and 607; Eugene 611, from parts of Eugene 513, 607 and 617; Eugene 613, from parts of Eugene 513, 607 and 615; Eugene 619, from part of Eugene 621; Demming precinct, from part of the Elmira precinct; and Santa Clara 4, from parts of Santa Clara 2 and 3.

University students and staff who have not previously registered and who wish to vote may either register in person at the county elections office at 175 W. 8th Ave. or by mail.

Mail registration forms are available at post office stations, banks and fire stations. A card with the voter's precinct location and number will then be mailed back to the registrant.

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