

Bare bookshelves hinder students

By Lori McGinnis

Forgetful instructors, backlogged orders and breakdowns in communication are some of the reasons students find empty shelves at the two campus bookstores.

To get books on time, instructors must order them by the middle of October for the spring semester and by the middle of April for the fall semester, said Larry Behrends, manager of the University Bookstores.

"There's always the late orders at the beginning of the semester," Behrends said. It usually takes about two weeks for the books to come from the publisher, he said.

"The person who suffers most is the student when a textbook order hasn't been turned in," Behrends said.

He said some instructors simply forget to order books. Behrends said three new book orders from instructors came in Tuesday. If the books aren't in the store's stock or the store can't obtain them from a wholesale bookstore, the books will be ordered from the publisher.

Mark Opegard, manager of Nebraska Bookstore, said the order for one section of Sociology 153 came in Monday.

Hugh Whitt, instructor of the sociology class, said he sent the order in before the due date.

"Somewhere along the line between the Sociology Department and the bookstore it (the order) just didn't get there," he said.

An instructor for Chemical Engineering 479 also is having problems with his book orders. Richard Gilbert said he requested 32 books on time, and half were to be sent to each bookstore. Nebraska Bookstore received 16 copies, but University Bookstore received only six, he said.

He was told the books were on back order from the publisher. Until the books come in, Gilbert said, he is 10 books short. He has said he has told his students to "sit tight" and borrow the book for the reading.

"Sometimes that happens," Behrends said, referring to books on back order. Publishers run out of books, too, he said, and when that happens, the request is put on back order. As soon as the books come in, the balance will automatically be shipped to the store.

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