Bookstore...

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The proposed bookstore renovation would consolidate it into one area. That area would include the present bookstore, bowling alley, games room, the Cellar, the barbershop and storage spaces.

Swanson said if the bookstore were to continue to operate as it is, with three different stores in three different locations, and pay rent to the union, student fees would possibly increase, and there would be no advantage to the union budget.

"I think the bookstore is well-managed," he said. "They have done remarkably well with what they have. If the management was to transfer to the union. I'd be pleased if the current managers transferred also."

Union management of college bookstores is becoming a national trend, Swanson said.

"Approximately one-third of college-operated bookstores are under union management," he said. "Most others are paying rent or are under the ownership of a private contractor."

"We have a unique situation here," Swanson said. "We have a bookstore operated by the business office, occupying space, not paying rent this kind of 'free-rent' arrangement is very rare."

Ray Coffey, business manager for the UNL department of business and finance, said union management of the bookstore would not be beneficial.

"It (the bookstore) is more economical the way it is," he said.

Coffey said renovating the bookstore would cost more money than it would receive back in book sales, and students might have to pay higher prices for books in order to cover operating costs of the larger store.

"We sell books at a reasonable price, and offer guaranteed buybacks and discounts," he said.

The bookstore also supplies needy students, whose names are given to them by the Financial Aids Office. with books and supplies.

"A state law sets the price for our books at no more than the publisher's list price," he said. "Students pay \$2 to \$3 more for books elsewhere."

The bookstore has repaid a debt of \$142,588 incurred m 1975 as a result of unsalable books, and is now operating on a break-even basis, he said. This will make it possible for the bookstore to continue student discounts and buybacks, and increase the book scholarship fund.

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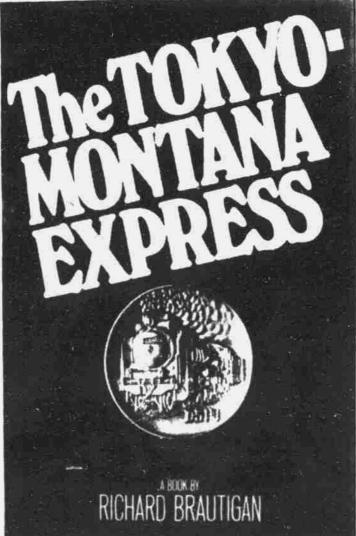
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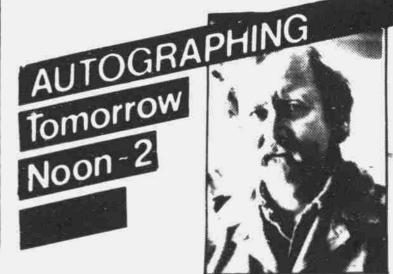


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