

## Overdue books affect schedules, graduation

By Peggy Reichardt

Fines aren't the only consequence of overdue books. Failure to return material to Love Library can result in blocking class registration, dropping a student from a class, withholding a diploma or withholding transcripts from graduates, said Anita Cook, assistant professor of the circulation services department at the library.

"It may seem like drastic action, but we are desperate to get these books back. The average library book is now \$40," Cook said.

To result in these actions, a student must owe \$10 or more to the library in fines, or have one or more overdue books. Blocked registration is the most common action, Cook said. It occurs 10 to 20 times a month, she said.

But under Love Library's policy on overdue books, students get two notices before any of the preceding actions take place. A computer automatically prints a notice three days after a book is due, and if the book has not been returned, a second notice is printed 21 days after the due date. Library staff members mail these notices to the individuals, Cook said.

If a student says he has returned the book, the library must do a search. Cook said the search often takes more than two months. If the book is still missing after the search, the person is billed for the book, or its equivalent.

Because there are so many overdue books, the library no longer allows current periodicals to be checked out. Cook said these periodicals were too easily lost or destroyed, and since they are in high student demand, they will be kept in the library permanently.

"We're trying to make them more accessible to more people," Cook said.

The change was favored by all but one department in a poll of faculty members, Cook said.

Another change that is still in the hands of the dean of libraries, Gerald A. Rudolph, is the policy for checking out bound journals. The proposed plan would have the frequently used journals kept in the library, or in noncirculation. Moderately used journals would be available for three days, and rarely used journals could be checked out for four weeks. Currently, all bound journals can be obtained for only three days.

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