

Marble floors, mirrors give new bookstore some class

By Sandi Witkowitz
Staff Reporter

With almost triple the space, the new University Bookstore expanded many departments and added new features, said Ray Coffey, UNL business manager.

The major change, Coffey said, is that the new 28,000-square-foot bookstore will be able to carry an extensive collection of general reading and reference materials. In the old bookstore, the reference section was confined to a few dictionaries, he said.

The new general reading department is the focal point of the store, he said. The university hopes it will function as a cultural and intellectual resource center.

The new textbook department is in the section of the basement where the bowling alley used to be, Coffey said, and is easily accessible from all store entrances. The department will continue to carry an extensive supply of textbooks, he said.

The new textbook department will be less crowded and students won't have to go from one room to another to find their books, he said.

The new store has wider aisles, is accessible to the handicapped and provides easier circulation, he said.

The store also has 18 checkout stands that can be used specifically for textbook buyers during the back-to-school rush, Coffey said.

The store still will use the same cash registers. Registers that read magnetic tape prices and codes are expensive but, Coffey said, they are being considered for the future.

All items in the store will be marked with a material that will set off an alarm and activate a camera to take a picture of the person trying to leave the store without paying for an item.

Another new feature of the bookstore is the computer shop, which will carry a selection of microcomputers and supplies, Coffey said.

The store will sell a complete line of art, engineering, architecture and general school supplies, he said. The previous space limitation allowed for only general supplies, Coffey said.

Now the store will stock the supplies instructors suggest students should have for particular classes, he said.

The new store also will offer expanded selections of Big Red merchandise, gifts, cards, clothing and personal care items, Coffey said. A specialty-type candy shop also will be added, he said.

Ken White, designer of the floor plan, said the store will save students' time. White, of Ken White Associates,

Inc., Westwood, N.J., said he has designed 800 college bookstores and has written a book about college bookstore planning and design.

The design challenge for this bookstore was to create a stimulating environment in a basement, White said. He used visual techniques so that once customers are in the store, they don't think about the store being in a basement.

Lasting materials, such as marble and wood for the floors, were selected, White said, to keep future furnishing replacements at a minimum.

Bond anticipation notes were issued to finance the construction, Coffey said. So far, bookstore construction costs are near or below the \$1,920,000 budget approved by the NU Board of Regents, Coffey said.

The bookstore does not receive state money, he said. It operates like any other business. Coffey said he does not think student fees will be needed to help pay for the new bookstore. He also said the store would continue with its present pricing policies and strategies.

On Feb. 16, the NU Board of Regents approved the bookstore project, Coffey said. Construction began Feb. 18, as workers removed pool tables and the bowling alley in the recreation center to make way for the new store, he said.

Book vouchers available Monday

Cash advances and book vouchers can be picked up during the first three days of classes by students who have grants and scholarships in excess of tuition and fees, said Lori Eversoll, assistant director of scholarships and financial aid.

Cash advances will be given until money is depleted, she said.

The schedule for obtaining book vouchers and cash advances will be

available from 9 p.m. Aug. 26, 8 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Aug. 27 at the Nebraska Union Regency Suite and 8 a.m. to noon Aug. 28 at the Nebraska Union Georgian Room.

The \$100 cash advances must be cashed at the Bursar's office in the Administration Building before Aug. 30. Eversoll said book vouchers are accepted only by the University Bookstore and must be used on or before Aug. 30.

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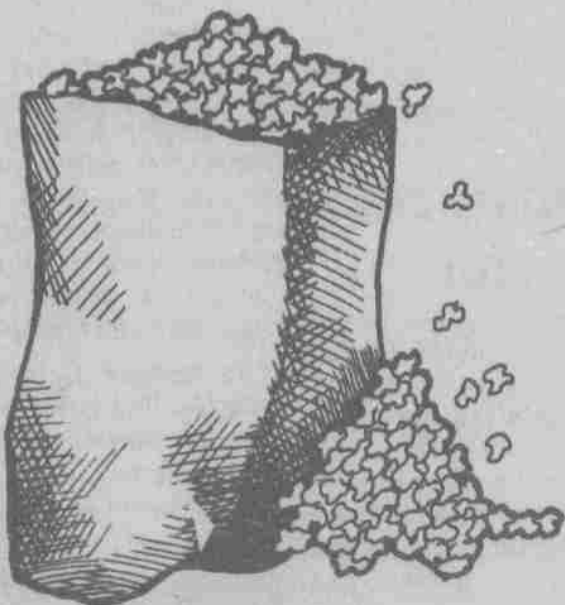


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