

Daily Nebraskan

Monday

WEATHER

Today, heat index 103-110 degrees, sunny and humid with a high between 97 and 102, south wind 15-25 miles per hour. Tonight, partly cloudy, low 70. Tuesday, mostly sunny, not as hot, high in the low- to mid-90s.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln

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Stores not to blame for text prices, managers say

By Lee Rood
 Staff Reporter

It's got just about everything anyone ever wanted to know about biology -- and lots of colorful graphs and pictures to boot -- but can

students afford to pay \$54 for a biology textbook? Do they have a choice? Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and across the Big Eight are paying higher overall prices for their textbooks again this year. Bookstore textbook managers say

there is not much they can do about it. Textbook managers at seven Big Eight bookstores said higher production costs, better technology and corporate takeovers of some large publishing houses contributed to a steady increase in textbook prices during the past several years.

James Bellman, textbook manager for Nebraska Bookstore, said he had seen a steady increase in book prices over the last 20 years.

Bellman recalled a book he purchased for about \$13.95 in 1971 when he was a freshman college student in Minnesota. That book now sells for \$48.95 and, Bellman said, similar increases are not uncommon.

Gwen Behrends, textbook manager at the University Bookstore, estimated that the price of textbooks went up about 10 percent this fall. Behrends said she had witnessed similar increases every semester for the last three years.

The increases, Behrends and other textbook managers said, are not the fault of university bookstores. Behrends and the other seven managers said the markup percentage they add to the publisher's price for a given textbook had remained steady for the past several years.

All officials at the seven Big Eight schools interviewed said they marked up their texts between 20 and 25 percent to pay for overhead costs such as

rent, shipping, utilities and employee salaries.

Bookstore officials at the University of Missouri could not be reached for comment.

Managers agreed that publishers generally were responsible for the higher prices. Publishers not only are paying more to produce and market a textbook today, but are spending more on technology such as color reproduction. In addition, the managers

had noticed that many publishers have become victims of major takeovers in recent months. That, Olsen said, is evidence enough that the business is lucrative.

"There have got to be big profits there, just got to be," Olsen said.

Behrends said some publishers simply choose to charge more than others for the same amount of technical matter.

"So the same type of books will cost more from one publisher to another," she said.

Other publishers control the market on certain types of texts because their subject matter is highly specialized, Behrends said.

Math, engineering, textile design and actuarial science books are the most expensive, Behrends said. One engineering text -- the most expensive book at the University Bookstore -- has a price tag of \$140.

Students who think textbooks for a particular course are too expensive may want to speak with their professors.

Behrends said that while many professors were concerned about how much their texts cost, others don't seem to care.

"A lot of times, I'll have a professor call me and say: 'I'm considering three or four titles, can you check the prices?'" she said. "But some really don't care at all."

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said, publishers are beginning to supplement textbooks with expensive study guides and computer software.

Cece Olsen, who has been a textbook manager at the University of Colorado for the past 30 years, said many companies have found the publishing business to be profitable.

Olsen and other managers said they

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Course: Title:	Publisher's Price	UNL	Nebr.
Physics 115 "Conceptual Physics"	\$35.00	\$46.20	\$46.65
Spanish 101 "Puntos De Partida"	\$36.50	\$36.10	\$36.50
Anthropology 100 "Culture, People & Nature"	\$29.50	\$38.95	\$39.30
History 100 "A History of Western Society"	\$23.07	\$30.50	\$30.75
Political Science 100 "American Government"	\$32.56	\$44.30	\$43.30
Biology 101 "Biology"	\$40.76	\$54.80	\$54.35

Iraqi actions hit home with Arab students on campus

By Ryan Steeves
 Staff Reporter

Although Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait has been condemned worldwide, the invasion has found champions among many Arab students

attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Most disliked Kuwait, saying its government was arrogant, treated its foreign residents as second-class citizens, abused the appointments system, overproduced oil and was too stubborn in demanding war loans from its protector Iraq. They also say Iraq has a historical claim to Kuwait.

Although their opinions differ on U.S. involvement, some students say it isn't as black and white as a battle between Saddam and the United States. The students see Israel as an integral link in the crisis. They say the Jewish state wants to use the situation to farther expand its borders.

Those are radical views to Americans, who see a belligerent Iraqi aggressor as the problem.

Arab students are aware their opinions are extreme to Americans.

Many refused interviews and some demanded

anonymity. They say they are afraid -- some of their government and the possible threat to their families back home, but most of the reaction of students and citizens in Lincoln.

One Arab student who refused to reveal his name or homeland says he was afraid of a recurrence of the events of 1979, when bricks slammed through the windows of some Iranian-Americans during the hostage crisis.

"Students have to know that what goes on there (in the Middle East) has nothing to do with us here," the student repeated many times. "We came here to study, not to fight."

The student also says Americans should live up to their belief in free speech and tolerate different views.

Recent events in the United States confirm their fears. In San Francisco, a professor who told a newspaper he favored a negotiated set-

tlement in the crisis received a death threat. Arab-Americans also have complained of unfair stereotypes surfacing.

Arab students say the government -- which some call run more by an association of merchants than leaders -- is marked by arrogance and greed. This is what got it into trouble, they say. Kuwait produced too much oil, pushing prices down and costing Iraq millions in lost revenue.

The criticism shows part of the problem in the Middle East. Even though the region is abundant with oil, its distribution is not homogeneous -- some countries have it, others do not.

The unequal wealth distribution and second-class status felt by Arab foreigners in some countries discourages the Arab people, who

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attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Most disliked Kuwait, saying its govern-

Press needs more space Growth spurs relocation

By Jennifer O'Clka
 Senior Reporter

University of Nebraska Press employees will have the elbow room they need to fulfill the press' expansion mission when plans for more space become reality, officials said.

Willis Regier, press director, said administrators told him more space would be assigned to the press. The new location has not been identified.

John Benson, director of Institutional Research Planning and Fiscal Analysis, said his office was providing information on several locations.

Benson said he was not sure how long the study would take or when the press would have a new home.

Regier said more space has been needed for a long time.

The press lacked space because it has grown faster than expected, Regier said. With sales quadrupling in the past decade, employees lacked the room they needed to do their work.

The press "is suffering from its own prosperity," Regier said. "It has been successful in doing what the administration hoped -- growing. It has grown at a faster rate than predicted ..."

Crowding of employees was one problem resulting from the rapid

growth, Regier said. "They've had to double, triple up in offices. That automatically leads to all the syndromes of overcrowding: inefficiency, irritability, lack of access to facilities like the telephone," he said.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln-based press has grown to be the second largest state university press in the nation, Regier said. Ten years ago, the Nebraska press was about the 26th largest.

"I think that the press and the university have unlimited potential, but in limited space that potential will be boxed in until sufficient space is available," Regier said.

The press needs at least an additional 3,000 square feet of space for the current employees, Regier said. The press now is housed in 7,000 square feet on the third floor of Nebraska Hall.

But Regier said the press needs about 14,000 square feet of space "for the work we need to get done."

Regier said the optimum plan would include more than 20,000 square feet of space so the press could "fulfill the campus and public functions appropriate to a press our size and a university our size."

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Sophomore Alan Hodges tries to slam one over the net during a game of two-man volleyball at a sand pit near Abel/Sandoz residence halls. Hodges and three others braved high temperatures Sunday afternoon to play the game.

Butch Ireland/Daily Nebraskan