Battling textbook price inflation

State Public Interest Research Groups combine forces to put pressure on publishers

MICHAEL D. SHEAR AND LISA REIN

WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The rising cost of textbooks is a serious problem that everyone involved in higher education should be deeply concerned about," said WashPIRG and other state Public Interest Research Groups (PIRGs) are working together outlining what students, faculty and bookstores can do to fight back.

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Despite the changes, Ben Baron, vice president of graduate programs at Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, urged students not to be overly apprehensive about the new format and said the best thing for students to do is “familiarize themselves as much as possible with the new test.”

Margolis reiterated this point. “It isn’t really shouldn’t be any special preparation necessary” and traditional study methods should be sufficient grounding, she said.

However, Peg Cheng, UW academic counselor and pre-law advisor, said there are some things that students cannot prepare for.

“After all, it’s difficult to get better at reading comprehension through taking a prep course,” she said. “It’s a skill that students should have developed throughout their school years.”

Kaplan representatives are advising students to take either the December 2007 or February 2008 test simply because study material for the new format is not yet available.

In past years, students have used a number of study schemes to prepare for the exam, ranging from commercial preparatory courses to regimes they have designed themselves.

Seattle University law student John Lasney tackled the reading comprehension section by reading one paperback book a day for a couple of months.

“I figured that my reading comprehension is generally good, but if I could read quicker, I could go back and read the passage again if I needed to in order to answer the question,” he said.

The LSAC plans to release more information and preparation material for the comparative reading section by mid-February.

Both the Office of Undergraduate Advising and the Law School Admissions Office will have more information about the new test in the coming months.

Contributing writer Keri Murphy: newsworthily.washington.edu

Further information on the new LSAT can be found at:
www.kaptest.com/law
www.lsac.org

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Lakeisha Lee (front) and Sweetly Kim, who plans to take the LSAT in February, work on a diagnostic test as part of an LSAT preparation class at the Kaplan center.

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