

# Center offers help in test preparation

By Meg Dedolph  
Oregon Daily Emerald

Are you one of the 400,000 people scheduled to take the Graduate Record Exam this year? Is the thought of it making you nervous?

Don't worry. Help is on the horizon at the University Center building on East 13th Avenue.

That's where Kaplan Educational Center just opened its Eugene location.

Kaplan is the oldest test preparation company in the United States, helping college students study for not only the GRE but the MCAT, LSAT and GMAT, which are the medical, law and management school admissions tests.

Kaplan also helps prepare people for college admissions tests and professional licensing exams.

Joe Russin, the center's manager, said Kaplan offers five- and 10-week courses, each with nine or 10 four-hour lessons.

The courses are taught by instructors who not only scored well on the test but went through a training program to teach them how to use Kaplan's teaching materials.

"I came to Kaplan as an instructor," said Russin, who still teaches MCAT preparation

classes, "and I was impressed with the quality material and dedication to seeing students do better on tests."

Kaplan courses also provide students with home-study materials to practice the strategies and skills learned during class.

"Part of what we try and do is make the tests positive experiences," Russin said. "They're just a part of life for a student."

Finally, students are given practice tests and audio tapes that explain the right and wrong answers for each question.

Kaplan's review classes are small, usually averaging between 10 and 20 students, most of whom have not taken that particular test before.

"We have the kind of student who has a history of not doing well on a standardized test or a student who wants to go to a school with high scoring requirements," said Russin, describing the Kaplan classes. "Or we have a student who thought they could do well on the test, (but) it took them by surprise and they bombed it."

But for the students who teach the classes, Kaplan's teaching methods seem to work.

"It's very difficult to give average increases to most of our courses," Russin said, "but I've never seen a situation where



WILSON CHAN for the Emerald  
John Armstrong and Lisa Stripp study at the new Kaplan center.

they haven't increased."

Russin cited a Price-Waterhouse survey of students who took the SAT, a college admissions test, after taking Kaplan's SAT course. The survey results showed that most students were able to increase their test score by about 115 points.

But Russin emphasizes Kaplan doesn't just teach students how to perform well on the standardized test of choice; students enrolled in Kaplan courses learn more than that.

"We believe content is really important," he said. "We teach the skills to answer the questions, not the tricks to beat the question."

To do this, Kaplan courses not only cover specific subject areas like math, but cover analytical thinking skills and strategies for solving logic problems.

# Crackdown on frats topic of greek forum

Scot Clemens  
Oregon Daily Emerald

The general impression from greek members at a forum sponsored by Beta Theta Pi was that the police and University crackdown on campus fraternities has gone too far.

Although they understood concerns that they must respect their community, most of the fraternity members who questioned the panel took issue with the high fines and harsh treatment coming from the two bodies.

However, the speakers said that some fraternities are getting out of hand.

Bill Lamon, special assistant to the vice provost and police liaison coordinator to the greek system, said the University has about "had it" with the behavior of some of the fraternities on campus. He added that the Beta house was on a "hit list" of fraternities that are special problems for student conduct officials.

"My job is to protect you from behavior that will get you kicked out," he said, "(and) it is imperative that you change your behavior."

Officer Ken Saxon of the Eugene police emphasized that greeks who do get "caught" with alcohol on the street or in their house should be honest with the police officer present. If not, he said, the person will only be rewarded with a higher fine, especially if he wrongly identifies himself.

Although a minor in possession charge is only \$90 and an open container violation is only \$165, a citation for incorrect identification can cost up to \$505.

MIPs are often issued at football games, Saxon said. "Generally speaking, this year at the football games I see clusters of students (outside the seating area) drinking," he said. While the older members know they are not in violation of the law, the younger ones attempt to hide their beers.

Again, Saxon said that minors need to confess to the violation and not get themselves in any more trouble.

He went on to add that bota bags are considered open containers and are subject to the same laws.

Saxon also addressed the issue of noise violations, a special problem for the Betas because of the retirement community across the street.

He praised the Betas for sending out a letter of warning to neighbors before a weekend when they are planning a function. But there are more things that can be done, he said.

It helps to have a sober person near the phone, Saxon said, to field calls and to warn the house if the party is getting too loud.

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