

Textbooks: Textbook prices stretch student budgets

Continued from page 2B

students had the option of purchasing the textbook without the extra material. The bundled software cost twice as much.

Standish said CD-ROMs don't add much to the price of the book. He added that the CDs are more for marketing purposes.

According to the report, publishers update textbooks, on average, once every 3 1/2 years. Seventy-six percent of the faculty surveyed felt that new editions were justified "half the time or less," and more than half of those faculty said the new editions are "rarely to never" justified. The old editions become unavailable when students try to look for used copies, forcing them to pay an average of \$102 for a new book, rather than an average of \$65 for a used book.

According to an OSPERG press release, few changes were found between Thomson Learning's 1999 edition of "Calculus: Early Transcendentals" and its 2003 edition, which sells for about \$130. A used edition can be found for \$20 to \$90. Standish blames the high prices of textbooks on "limited demand and a high cost of production."

University Spanish professor and textbook author Robert Davis said another reason for the high prices is the free materials and textbooks the professors request. To compensate for those free materials, bookstores raise prices, he said.

He said articles and pictures in the textbook, as well as color, cost

publishers a great deal of money.

Another factor in the price is the used-book market. New books would be cheaper if authors and publishers were paid every time a used book was sold, Davis said.

Publishers are starting to make changes in response to the high prices, he said.

The new edition of a textbook that Davis wrote will be sold at a lower cost than the price of most new textbooks, he said, adding that McGraw-Hill, the textbook publisher, is doing this in response to complaints about textbook prices.

"They streamlined production costs and cut corners where they could," he said.

OSPERG's study provided a few recommendations to keep the price of textbooks down.

One recommendation was providing the option of buying textbooks without bundled items. Other recommendations included keeping textbook editions on the market "as long as possible without sacrificing the educational content," creating on-line editions and providing more forums for students to purchase used books.

Petkun said book swaps are a more affordable way for students to purchase books. OSPERG has set up a Web site, www.campusbookswap.com, to do this.

The University Bookstore is working on setting up one of its own, Petkun said.

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Construction: Andy Warhol inaugural exhibit at art museum

Continued from page 1B

Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art

Early next year the long awaited art museum renovations will finally be complete. The newly renamed Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art is expected to open January 2005. The new museum will feature galleries devoted to American Regional art, Northwest art and Korean art, as well as a new space to store the University's famous

collection of Japanese and Chinese artwork. A cafe is also being added on the ground floor, in the hopes that it will draw in new patrons.

"It might be that thing that attracts those that don't normally come into the museum," museum spokeswoman Katy Sproles said.

When the museum opens it will be displaying a traveling exhibition by Andy Warhol.

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