

'RIP-OFF'

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tions," said Wolownik. "We found that prices are hiked 21 percent with the new editions."

Wolownik also said that the additions the publishing companies make to the books are often insignificant.

"New editions are often unjustified," he said. "76 percent of the faculty we surveyed for the Fall 2003 study said that the new editions were justified half of the time or less."

Half of the textbooks surveyed were "bundled" or shrink-wrapped with extras like CD-ROMs and workbooks, which were rarely or never used by 65 percent of reporting faculty. Dr. Jeffrey Halpern of the Communication Department says this practice makes professors balance the values of supplemental materials towards a quality education with the cost to the students.

"My primary responsibility is providing a quality education," said Halpern. "If the bundled material adds a lot to my course that I can't get otherwise, then that's what I choose for my classes."

Ripoff 101: Second Edition also points out that the average textbook surveyed costs 20 percent more in the United States than it does in the United Kingdom. One book publisher, Thompson Learning's website shows that, of the books included in the survey, U.S.

students are charged 72 percent more than students in the U.K., Africa and the Middle East.

"In particular, the books we surveyed were 20 percent cheaper on www.amazon.com.uk and some books cost twice as much in the United States as they did in other countries," said Wolownik.

The fifth edition of *Calculus: Early Transcendentals*, put out by Thompson Learning, was the most-used calculus book in the survey. The fourth edition of the book was put out in 1999, but Wolownik said that the only difference between the two editions is the price. The fifth edition of the book goes for \$130 while the fourth edition can be bought for about \$30 to \$120 less than that, said Wolownik.

"Is it really necessary for students to pay \$40 or more so they can have new exercises?" asked Wolownik.

As a result of the study, PIRG has made recommendations for the textbook industry. It says that publishers should keep the cost of producing their books as low as possible, unbundle the books, keep each edition on the market for as long as possible without sacrificing the educational content and pass cost-savings from online textbooks to students.

However, when these recommendations were made to the Association of American Publishers (AAP), the organization refused to endorse them, said Wolownik.

Curtis said that the financial burden placed on students every semester to purchase textbooks is unnecessary.

"Students are suffering, their education is suffering and yet, at the publishing companies, our cries, more often than not, fall on deaf ears," she said.

Curtis called for students to focus on making an impact on the publishing companies by asking their professors to select books that will keep textbook costs down for students.

"Now is the time for students and faculty members to work together to make an impact at the university level," said Curtis.

The study also suggested that faculty be made aware of how their textbook choices financially affect their students and that colleges and universities should consider implementing rental programs for used books and encourage students to use online bookswaps so they can buy and sell used books and set their own prices. Jeffrey Edelstein, an adjunct professor in the Communication Department, said that price is a factor he considers when selecting books for his classes, "especially for writing classes, where a large portion of the classwork is going to be spent writing, not reading a text," and said that he's seen some outrageously priced books.

"I don't remember what the book title was," he said. "I do know it was about 300 pages, printed on paperback stock,

and was selling for \$75."

Drew Procaccino, a professor in the Department of Computer Information Systems, also said that price has an influence on his textbook decisions.

"There were a few that I had some interest in, but after seeing the price, it was easier to dismiss the text and move on," he said.

Procaccino said he believes that, in general, high-priced textbooks are not worth the price.

"And the price of used textbooks—don't even get me started on that," he said.

Two websites for used books are www.campusbookswaps.com and www.maketextbooksaffordable.com.

Sophomore Tiffany Vaughn said that she heard that Half.com is good.

"You can sell your books back for the same amount that you would in the bookstore and it only costs half as much to buy them. I overheard some-

one saying that they needed to buy a book for \$25 and they got it for \$3 on Half.com."

According to Cliff Ewert, vice president of public and campus relations at Follett, the company that runs the Rider bookstore, if a book has been used for an entire semester, the student may receive 50 percent of the purchase price if they sell it back. Follett sets its price is based on industry pricing.

"We don't believe in bundling," said Ewert. "It hurts students on both ends."

Follett suggests that faculty submit their book adoption information as early as possible, which will allow them time to search for used books on the national market before they are no longer available.

In Follett's Acumen report, the publisher says that because some books are only sold in packages with supplementary materials, forcing students to buy the whole package.

'CAUGHT'

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arm has not yet been estimated, but it is believed to be over \$100.

The gates to the parking lots are not there to annoy students, but rather to help control traffic, according to Weaver.

"The gate arms are there to serve a legitimate purpose," said Weaver. "It's there to control access to parking lots."

The students will be summoned to the Office of Community Standards to pay for both the tickets and the costs of repairing the broken gate and the students may also lose their driving privileges on

campus.

Weaver said that there had been prior reports that people had been breaking the arms to gates around campus, but did not speculate if the vandalisms had been related. She also said that the parking rules set forth by the University are not being upheld by some students.

"Bad information is being passed around, so we need to make sure we respect the gate arms and the purpose that they are there for," she said.

However, she did note that more students have been following the rules in general this year.

"We have students who are being more responsible this year for getting their cars registered, for parking where they're supposed to be parking, for

doing the right things," said Weaver.

"I'd hope that they'd work with their peers to get them to comply and get them to register because we're going to find out who the cars belong to—once we do, all those tickets that this person's accumulated—they're going to be held responsible for it."

Students are only allowed to park in designated areas in the parking lot. The Memorial Hall lot is never available for parking by students, even on weekends due to weekend college and academic meetings. However, students are permitted to park in both the Fine Arts and Annex parking lots starting 5 p.m. Friday until 6 a.m. Monday morning.

Students invited to parade in honor of troops

Lawrence Township will close a portion of Route 206 from Darrah Lane to Gainsboro Road today, Friday, Feb. 11 starting at 1:30 p.m. for about 45 minutes for a parade to welcome home about 170 National Guard soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 112th Field Artillery from Iraq.

The parade will begin at

Berwyn Place and proceed one-tenth of a mile north on Route 206 to Eggerts Crossing Road. The troops will proceed the short distance down Eggert Crossing Road past Lawrence Intermediate School and Lawrence Central Park to the 112th Field Artillery National Guard Armory.

Those interested in

welcoming them home are asked to line up along Eggerts Crossing Road beginning at Route 206. Individuals must park behind the New Jersey Department of Military and Veterans Affairs by 1:15 p.m. Interested individuals from the Rider community can walk the one-half mile south along Route 206 to Eggerts Crossing Road.

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and

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