

Time has come to protest \$40-50 surcharge

The announced \$40-50 tuition surcharge to become effective Winter term passed through the students' consciousness with hardly more than a whimper of discontent. A few student leaders dragged out their battered soapboxes and harangued a gaggle of half-attentive students with the usual "Tuition surcharge yata yata yata..." Students have grumbled about the surcharge between pitchers — but, as far as joining together and loudly protesting the \$40-50 surcharge; students have done nothing. It hasn't even irked University students that they'll be paying \$20-30 more than Oregon college students.

The State Board of Higher Education meets today at 9 a.m. in EMU Dad's Room. The state board will be deciding on the surcharge for Winter term, and will be accepting public testimony. Speakers for the testimony session have already been selected, but it is at the discretion of the president of the state board to allow testimony from students at large. This is the students' only opportunity to protest the \$40-50 surcharge. A show of numbers may not sway the state board because they are only indirectly responsible for the surcharge. However, a show of numbers will be seen and heard in Salem where they are directly responsible for budget reductions which caused the surcharge. Legislators can count, and each protesting student is a lost ballot in the next election. The number of students protesting the surcharge will cast a dark cloud over Gov. Vic Atiyeh as he suns himself on Waikiki's white sands.

University students have become shamefully docile. In Puerto Rico university students demon-

strated against a \$10 hike per-credit charge. The demonstration turned into a riot with police and university guards firing rifles in the air and using tear gas and blackjacks to disperse the students. More than 6,000 students have been boycotting classes in protest of the tuition increase. But those students are in Puerto Rico, not the Emerald City of Eugene.

A letter to the editor by Tim Mitchell, a senior in international studies, described a recent episode on this campus that illustrates how submissive University students have become. Mitchell says a professor entered his classroom and angrily berated the students for their behavior during the previous lecture. As punishment the professor insisted the students take a test while a radio blared music. "This he explained, 'would show us what it is like when trying to lecture to a bunch of high school students.'" The professor then stormed out of the room.

Mitchell says only seven students protested the treatment and walked out. All the other students dutifully took the test with the radio

disrupting their concentration. After five minutes the professor returned, with the seven who walked out, and said it had been a test of another sort. "I'm disappointed," the professor said, "that more of you didn't walk out."

The professor's point, according to Mitchell, was that if students would accept this abuse in a classroom the state board needn't justify this or any future tuition surcharges.

Time is at a premium for students during deadweek and finals — why do you think the powers-that-be historically schedule such decisions as the \$40-50 surcharge for the end of term? Protesting the surcharge is important enough to close your books and take a half an hour to vent your spleen at those responsible. Public testimony will be allowed, at the state board's option, between 1 and 1:30 p.m. today in EMU Dad's Room.

If you don't protest that's your choice. But, when you have to pay \$40-50 more at the window in January remember it was your silence that made it all possible.

letters

Champions of education

A Special Session of the Oregon State Legislature is about as much of a surprise these days as rain in December, and for that matter so is the continuing saga between higher education, human resources and property relief. The main problem is that in times of economic downturn human resources and property relief bring short-term benefits to the people of Oregon, whereas higher education is a long-term investment. The lobbying effort will be an uphill battle, especially with a new face in the crowd, but the important thing to remember is that we might not win, but we don't have to lose either. Seek out our champions of higher education and refute our enemies. Give them straight facts with sob-story appeal, because you know that's what the human resources division is going to be giving the bleeding-heart liberals. Also, instill some motivation in our administration and student government to become more efficient (once is never enough) and who knows, the students might even get the best deal for a change.

Brian Dunlap
Senior, political science

Religious holiday

I'm sick and tired of those Communists invading this land of sweat and toil. Now they want to interfere with Christmas by claiming it is a religious holy day. Hog wash! Christmas is the time that I spend my hard earned money on worthless junk that nobody can use. Heck, it's my money!

Now the thing that really fries my ass is starting the Christmas season so damn early. Christmas is the only time of the year that I can repent for all the backstabbing I've done the past year. Now the commies even want me to put on my mask earlier each year. Hell! Let's get the season over with so I can get on with business. Hey, speaking of business, I do reap a higher profit during this season than any other. Hmmm, maybe those commies are not so bad after all. Now wait a minute. Those God fearing Communists must be stopped. Let's cut them off at the pass and change Christmas to Xmas before they ruin this holiday season. Merry Christmas.

Steve Ingham
Senior math



Political dissident

Speaking as one who was present in the EMU Ballroom the day of the Victor Tomseth speech and subsequent ribbon burning incident by John Kaiser and Nancy Whitley, and also as one who has over four years experience in the fire service. I was, to say the least, quite saddened by the apparent miscarriage of justice that has occurred in this case. The ribbon burning was an obvious example of a first ammendment protected free speech statement and not first degree arson. This conviction is another slap to the face of democracy by a criminal justice system that caters to the rich and powerful "ruling class" and serves to keep the poor and the dissenters in line. It is truly unfortunate that we decry the false imprisonment of dissidents in a "communist" country, while at the same time we attempt to imprison political dissidents in this country.

Brad Passenger
Junior, psychology

Incomplete attribution

I am writing in regard to Debbie Howlett's article of Nov. 25 captioned "Student Questions University's Link to Corporation." Howlett's attribution to me was accurate, but incomplete, and the omission leaves the possible misimpression that an exception is under active consideration.

In my conversation with Howlett, I stated the Administrative Rule that governs the use of University facilities by private organizations. I gave examples of application of the rule and the basis on which the rule allowed exceptions. But I added specifically with regard to Bio-Dynamics, that if direct corporate activity was

being conducted in University facilities, under the Administrative Rule the corporation would be directed to terminate its activities on campus.

John E. Lallas
Executive Dean

Return sign

At a time when small campus area businesses are really struggling, someone stole the handmade sign that hung outside our bookstore. What a cruel way to celebrate Christmas.

Please bring it back. We need it and you don't. Thank you.

Sylwester and Acheson
825 E 13th St.

letters policy

Write us

The Emerald will accept and attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on issues, ideas and topics of interest to the University community.

The letters **must** be limited to 250 words, signed, and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald offices, EMU 300.

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