

# Students miss opportunity to question fees

If you have to pay more in the way of special fees, fines, penalties and service charges for the 1982-83 school year don't become too irate. Of course, you can get mad — although it will be way too late.

Last week testimony from the University community was solicited at a hearing in Johnson Hall. This was to be the opportunity for response to the 61 page schedule of fees, fines, et al. But only seven people attended the hearing. Those

seven people were the only ones who were concerned enough with the rising costs of special fees to take the time to voice their opinions at the hearing.

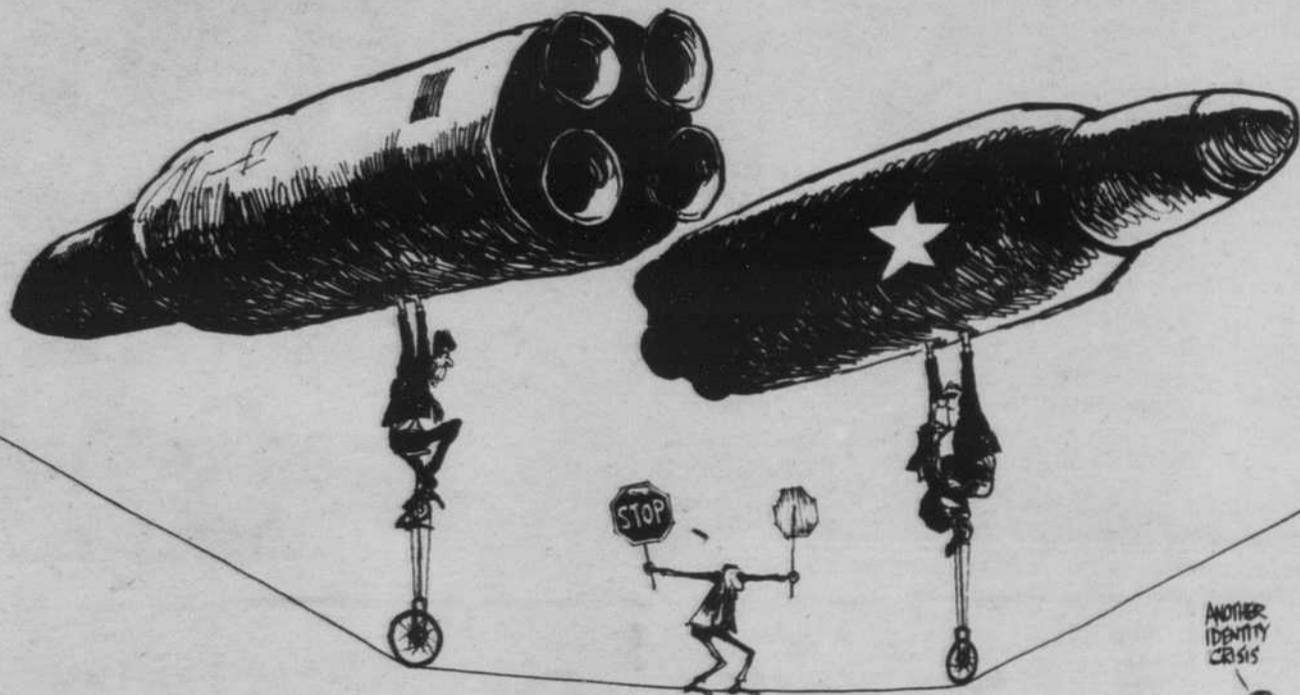
It's something of a not reaping of what you don't sow situation — if you don't demand clarification for fee increases, or, at least question the setting of a fee level, then you can't expect fees to decline or to reflect the realities of your economic circumstances.

The administration, being bureaucratic, semantically so, as large governing bodies tend to be, calls them "surcharges." That's rather a melodious word — "sur'charj." It sounds much softer than the terse "fee" even though it means basically the same thing. Well, almost the same.

A surcharge is to overcharge, to overload, overburden, and to fill to excess or beyond normal capacity. That's not how the University administration intends the word. They wouldn't deliberately levy a charge that overburdens students. No doubt they are using the word surcharge in the context of an additional amount added to the usual charge. But that implies the additional amount is not a permanent increase in the normal fee charge.

What exactly are the revised fees? They range from a mundane 25 cent charge for opening a chemistry laboratory when the student forgets their key, to a bizarre (but certainly justifiable) fee schedule in the animal lab of the Psychology department for Monkeys at \$150 each — Cats at \$50 each — and \$3 a piece for Rats. There's a note appended to this. "Above subject to change, depending upon age, sex, and availability. Rates for other species may be added throughout the year as they come into use."

For the most part the fees are the usual sort — lost gym shorts, library cards, service charges for loans, and all that. As with most everything that costs at this University (and other places of higher education in Oregon) the price is continually going up. That's why it's crucial for students, faculty and staff to take the time to attend the University's hearings. The administration is not stone-deaf. They can and do, on specific occasion, listen.



'OUT OF THE WAY, YOU COMMIE NUISANCE — ER, NOT YOU, LEONID... THIS OTHER GUY!'

## letters

### The night

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Cort Fernald for the excellent editorial he wrote bringing attention to our workshops, rally and march on May 8, protesting violence against women and children. Thanks also for the well-written follow-up piece; it was doubly appreciated when we discovered, despite previous arrangements for coverage, that neither the Register-Guard nor the Springfield News saw fit to print one picture or word about the phenomena of hundreds of women marching through the streets of Eugene, a silent commentary on their priorities.

We are very pleased at the general turnout for the event and feel that the editorial did much to encourage the support of all who participated in the march. It was great, also, to see so many men supporting us from the streetcorners with candles, cheers and empathy! We look forward to increased participation and support in future events from women and men who understand the seriousness of the problem we are

facing in attempting to decrease the incidence of violence against women and children in our community.

**Linda Person  
Member, Women Take Back the Night**

*editor's note: Thank you for your comments on the Emerald's coverage of Take Back the Night.*

### letters policy

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.

The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style, or content. Publication is dependent on the space available.

gabriel boehmer

## editor's note

*Land of the rose and sunshine*, Land of summer's breeze; Laden with health and vigor, Fresh from the Western seas. Blest by the blood of martyrs, Land of the setting sun; Hail to thee, Land of Promise, My Oregon.

*Oregon State Song "Oregon, My Oregon"  
Words by J.A. Buchanan*

Although the weather appears to be taking a turn for the better, soon it will turn back. Oregon is not a sunny place. It rains here most-of-the-time and is overcast all-of-the-time.

This incessant meteorological condition remains steadfast against the changing of the seasons — despite my father's cursing when he wants to hit golf balls and the clouds want to pour them.

Yet, contrary to these climatic truths, the state of Oregon boasts an anthem which not only disregards the rain gauge, but also alleges the sunshine is an every-day occurrence here in the Land of the Rising Tide.

Twice J.A. Buchanan, the song's lyricist, specifically refers to the "sun" in the Oregon State Song. Not once does he acknowledge "rain."

I contend that Buchanan — a former state legislator, municipal judge and military commander — painted a misleading and an inaccurate picture of Oregon's weather. The words of "Oregon, My Oregon" should be changed promptly to reflect the state's true character, or

tourists nationwide will continue to be duped.

Just what was the Society of Oregon Composers thinking when it conducted a 1920 contest for the Oregon State Song? You would expect that out of 212 song manuscripts entered in the competition, the judges could have selected an anthem with lyrics referring to the torrential downpours which make the state so green and lush.

The Senate must have been looking the other way, too, when it approved joint resolution No. 3 and adopted Buchanan's lyrics as the official state anthem in 1927: a year when 9.54 inches of rain fell in Oregon in one month alone; a year when there was an average of only 8 days clear, with 10 days partly cloudy and 13 days cloudy each month in Western Oregon.

I'm surprised the state has not drawn the attention of the Federal Trade Commission for violating truth-in-advertising regulations.

As further evidence of the state of Oregon's weather, the government here created a *Water Commerce*, *Water Policy Review Board*, *Water Resources Department* and *Water System Operator's Certification Committee*. Obviously, *water* — and hence rain — is an important commodity in Oregon.

Contrary to popular belief, ignoring the state's wet weather will not make it go away. The Society of Oregon Composers should own up and choose a song that echoes the rainfall.

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