

opinion

Laudable honors

The reinstatement of University-wide graduation honors would be another selling point for students seeking jobs or admission to graduate schools — something in the same vein as minor disciplines.

Both graduation honors and minor disciplines acknowledge extra effort on the part of the student.

What was deemed "elitist" in the early 1970s, when the honors were discarded, could be another way to separate those who strive toward academic excellence from those who "get by."

The Student University Affairs Board has submitted a motion to reinstate honors in Latin on diplomas. As the motion stands, the criteria for graduation honors would be based solely on grade point averages.

Cum laude honors would be awarded to the top 10 percent of all University students, Magna Cum Laude to the top 5 percent, and Summa Cum Laude to the top 2 percent.

As the proposal stands, the honors would not take into account the differing grading policies of department and schools. How will honors be determined for schools such as art and architecture where most classes are graded pass/no pass?

Many departments have their own honors program. How will these two systems jibe? A diploma could conceivably read both "magna cum laude" and "psychology, departmental honors."

The Emerald would like to see the graduation honors returned to diplomas.

However, the awarding of the honorary words should be based at least on a percentage of graduates meeting GPA standards within a given department. For instance, the top 2 percent, 5 percent, and 10 percent of the physics and biology department would receive honors — even though their GPA range may differ.

Graduation honors would then reflect comparable work among peers.

Departmental honors — at least in some cases — reflect extra academic work earned by the student, usually in the form of a project or thesis.

An agreement should be reached between departmental honors and the University about the nexus between University-wide honors and departmental honors. The Honors College has their own program which shouldn't conflict.

GPA, even within a department, is not an acid test for scholarship. Departments need the final say on who is eligible for graduation honors.

To be meaningful, the reinstatement of graduation honors must show students have done work of value. Otherwise, the honorary words are futile attempts at prestige, if not pomposity.



letters

Incidentally

Incidental fees. What the heck are they? Are they good for you? Will they make you happy? Do you care?

Well, in my opinion, you should care very much about your money.

It has been said that you can learn quite a bit about the meaning of a word if you simply take it apart. Let's, shall we? IN- to be "in" school as we all are. CI- closely related to the Spanish word "si" meaning yes, as in "Yes, I own that cow." DENT- something the cost of tuition puts in your wallet. AL- Surely we all know that any student named Al is exempt from paying tuition. (I think).

Well, that was obviously an exercise in futility. Most of you are still out to lunch when it comes to understanding what incidental fees are all about. To be honest with you, when I ran for the IFC I really did not know anything about the whole fiscal process.

There is no reason why

students should simply ignore the budgeting process, after all, we're talking about a lot of green stuff and I don't mean guacamole either.

Let me try to clear up this turbid picture for you.

Fifty-two dollars per term of your tuition goes directly to the ASUO in the form of "incidental" fees. These dollars are allocated by the seven members of the Incidental Fee Committee to the 80 various student programs who request funding at budget hearings. These hearings begin in mid-January.

Needless to say, we are playing with some sincere dinero.

Try \$2.2 million on for size slugger. For you economics majors, it might be fun to discuss opportunity cost. For example, your individual IFC dollars could buy you 19 pitchers of your favorite suds at Rennies, 104 Monster Cookies or 240 games of Pac-Man.

Seriously, students should be concerned about where their money is going and how it is being spent. All meetings of the IFC are open to the public and the budget hearings will be covered by the Emerald. Please take the time to be informed about the budgeting process. Your input can make a difference. If you have any questions, please feel free to stop by the IFC office, Suite 3 of the EMU or call at x3749.

Jeff Nudelman
member, IFC

Agreement

The University administration has recently made the decision not to contract out Physical Plant Custodial Services to private contractors. This decision should be applauded by all members of the campus

community.

Under instructions from the State Board of Higher Education, the University studied the feasibility and cost effectiveness of contracting our custodial services.

Local 085 of the Oregon Public Employees Union formed its own contracting out study committee to meet and confer with the administration on the matter. Although contracting out is technically a management right, the University agreed to meet formally with the OPEU committee on two occasions.

These studies and joint meetings produced several points of agreement. It was agreed that to contract out such a large group of state employees, (about 70) would leave open the door for contracting out hundreds of other jobs on campus, in such areas as food service, grounds maintenance, security, general labor, and clerical work, to name a few.

Such a situation would cause massive disruptions in departments all over campus affecting every one of us.

It was agreed that the custodial division is already understaffed and doubt was expressed that any local contractor could submit a realistic bid. It was also agreed that the University would suffer a genuine security problem if an outside contractor were employed.

These are only a few of the many reasons the University made its progressive decision not to consider contracting out custodial services until at least July 1, 1984.

Alan Brown
chairperson, OPEU Local 085
Contracting Out Committee

letters

Cruel fur

I was invited to the Hult Center recently to hear Elmar Oliveira's stunning rendition of the Tchaikovsky Violin Concerto. No less stunning is the awesomely spacious Center itself, with its green floral carpet and clever artwork. The women in their fine furs added warmth and glamour. But I wonder if they realize where fur comes from. It they don't, maybe they should be told that:

Most furs comes from wildlife caught in steel traps and no one

knows how often a trapper checks his lines. The animal's terror and pain have been likened to having your finger slammed in a car door, then waiting in the cold and rain for the trapper to come to bash in your head and skin you.

Fur prices, not animal damage or disease, determine the numbers and types of animals taken. In 1981, \$1,112,302 of taxpayer's money was paid to U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Oregon for "damage control." Most of it went to trappers. Do taxpayers want

their dollars spent like this? The Department also sells the pelts and collects license fees, so the trapping business further enriches them.

Over 50 countries have banned the barbaric leghold trap.

Let's face it, to wear fur is to support cruelty to animals; it is to present oneself in a wrap of ignorance or insensitivity, or both.

Barbara Kelley
co-ordinator,
Save Our ecoSystems

oregon daily emerald

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letters policy

The Emerald will attempt to print all letters containing fair comment on topics of interest to the University community.

Letters to the editor must be limited to 250 words, typed, signed and the identification of the writer must be verified when the letter is turned in to the Emerald office. The Emerald reserves the right to edit any letter for length, style or content.

"Your turn" is an Emerald opinion feature submitted by members of the University community. "Your turns" must be limited to 500 words and typed. This editorial column will not be edited by the staff, but selection will be based on appropriateness.

Letters to the editor and "Your turns" should be turned into the Emerald office, Suite 300 EMU.

Unsigned editorials appearing in the Emerald are based upon the majority opinion of the editorial board.