

Verify fee charges before paying bill

Before you write that next tuition check to the University, make sure you know what you're paying for.

Fifty-eight students enrolled in the Master's of Science in Industrial Relations program were inappropriately charged a Business Administration Resource Fee by the College of Business Administration this year.

The CBA said it intended to charge MSIR students the fee when it submitted its fee proposal to the Oregon state Board of Higher Education. However, the OSBHE rejected the proposal at its July 24, 1992 meeting.

The Board decided to assess the fee to "students admitted to the Master's of Business Administration program at the University of Oregon." Nowhere is the MSIR program mentioned.

When the discrepancy was initially brought to the CBA's attention, associate dean James Terborg told the *Emerald* "there must have been some oversight or shorthand mistake in the chancellor's office when (BARF) was presented to the board."

If that was so, why didn't the CBA contact the chancellor's office and request verification? Instead of taking the time to check, the CBA simply went ahead and charged the fee to MSIR students anyway.

Had somebody from the CBA contacted the OSBHE, that person might have spoken with Davis Quenzer, vice chancellor of budget and fiscal policies. He would have probably told them what he told the *Emerald*, which was "the chancellor's staff narrowed (the fee request) down to only MBA students."

One phone call would have cleared the confusion and saved students hundreds of dollars and loads of unnecessary stress.

University Budget Director Trent Spradling tried to rationalize the mistake, saying "we just didn't pick up the change from the chancellor's office during the confusion of reducing the budget 20 percent." Is that going to be the standing excuse from now on?

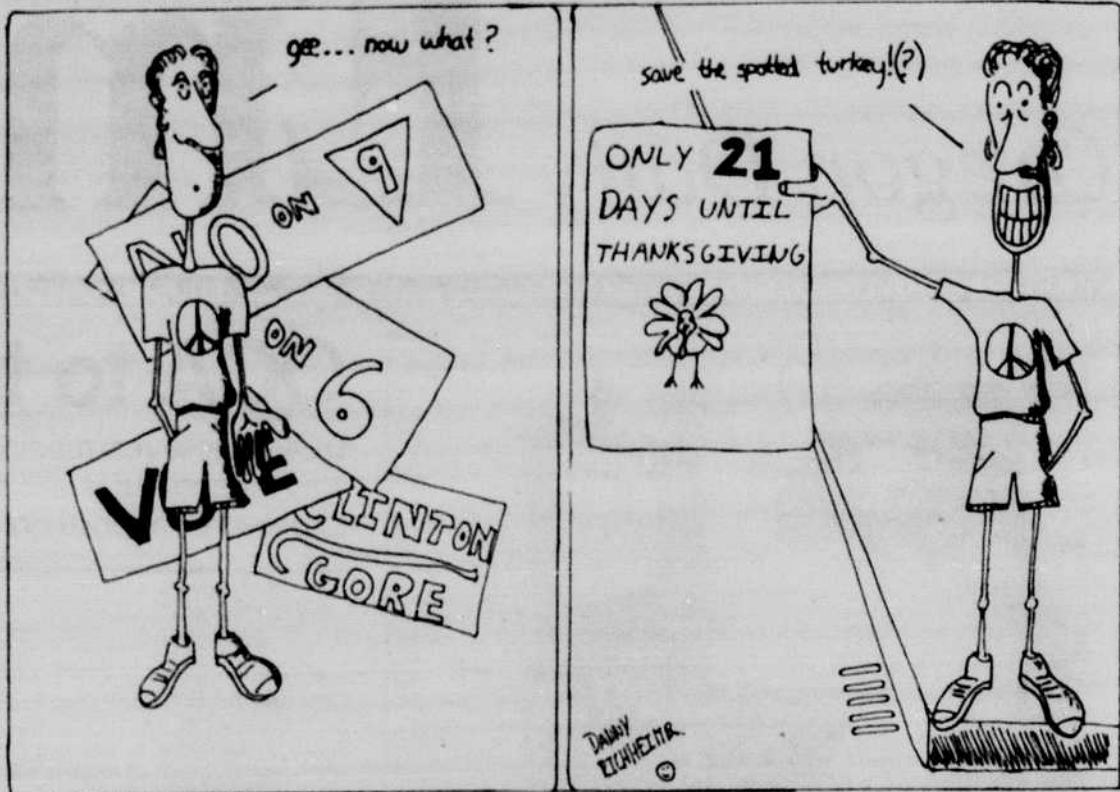
Not only is 1990's Ballot Measure 5 responsible for damaging the school financially, but apparently it is also preventing administrators from performing their jobs properly.

A similar excuse used in the classroom would be laughable. "Sorry professor (pick a name), I simply forgot to do my term paper because I was studying for a midterm in another class."

The very idea that students can be charged an unauthorized fee is frightening, especially with tuition and other fees on the rise. The CBA should have shown more responsibility in its handling of the fee situation to avoid demonstrating questionable ethics.

The CBA needs to be held accountable for its actions. An independent investigation into the fee incident should be launched immediately, if for no other reason than to ensure other students are not being taken advantage of. This includes not only the CBA, but every department and professional school at the University.

So, before you pay that tuition bill, take a very close look at what you're being charged for. Students have enough to worry about without being victimized by administrative bungling.



LETTERS

Counterpunch

When I read Peter Nies' letter (*ODE*, Nov. 2), I was overjoyed to hear the news that there is documented proof of homosexuality as a genetic trait. After years of reading scientific articles on this question and always coming up blank for factual evidence, I rushed to the library to find this documented proof Nies referred me to. I found the articles and began reading with elation, only to be disappointed.

Regarding the first article: Look it up. *Science News*, Aug. 31, 1991, p. 134, first paragraph, second sentence says, "the finding supports a theory that biological factors underlie sexual orientation, although it remains unclear whether the anatomical variation (in hypothalamic cell clumps) represents a cause or result of homosexuality," says neurobiologist Simon LeVay.

Regarding the second article: Look it up. *Newsweek*, Feb. 24, 1992, p. 50, last column, second paragraph begins, "LeVay knows he is vulnerable on that score. Because his subjects were all dead, he knew 'regretably little' about their sexual histories, besides their declared or presumed orientation." LeVay says, "that's a distinct shortcoming of my study."

I am curious to know how much of an article one reads before believing something is scientifically proven. Sorry, the scientific process is not so easily convincing. There were numerous other quotes I can't give because of space, but I can say they were all acknowledging that scientists still can find no adequate proof that homosexuals were "born that way."

Allen James
Biology

Madness

I thought it important to point out that it was my failed campaign for the ASUO Presidency that originally addressed the tough issues. I'm speaking, of course, about the Myles Brand mustache question. Had I been elected, this embarrassing situation would never have grown to its current propor-

tions.

My running mate and I always maintained the University president should keep his facial hair. But here we are, several months later, and nothing has changed. When will the current ASUO administration finally get around to a decision on the matter?

Their indecision is already leading to a disturbing domino effect. Peter DeFazio looked much better without a mustache. Bobby and Karmen — please help stop the madness.

Chris Pharis
student

Who cares?

As a journalism student in high school, two things were stressed again and again. One is that like it or not, newspapers and their staffs control what a large segment of the population is exposed to news-wise.

The other is that although a reporter or newspaper staff may have one view, the opposing view deserves to be heard. I was taught that newspapers have to be aware that what they are printing is useful to the readership and presents the whole story — not just one point of view. I'm beginning to wonder if this applies at the University.

When the *Emerald* printed "Streetwise" (Nov. 2) by students on whether University President Myles Brand looks better with or without his mustache, I thought I had seen the lowest of the low. For God's sake, there was a national election about to be decided.

Even without the election, issues such as jobs vs. spotted owls, welfare reform, health care legislation and the environment are more deserving than petty cosmetic advice to school officials. What's next? Song dedications? Gossip columns? I'm beginning to remember my middle school newspaper.

How can the so-called responsible media stand by and let the credentials of journalists as a group be tarnished by second-rate reporting practices? And why does the *Emerald* contribute to this degradation of the media's status? Stress service to your readers and delivery of information, not sen-

sational, irrelevant and (to be honest) stupid topics.

And about Brand's mustache — who cares?

Aaron Ray
Pre-journalism

Biased ads

I was quite disappointed when the *Emerald* didn't print "Calvin and Hobbes" in Monday's newspaper (Nov. 2). A good joke always helps to start the day.

As I looked at the paper more closely, I discovered that 14 out of the 16 pages had ads concerning the need to vote Democratic (or vote anti-Republican) and to vote No on 9.

With the exception of one paid Republican ad, there were no opposing viewpoints reflected in the *Emerald's* pages. Isn't journalism based on unbiased reporting of events, of equal time being given to all points of view?

It was then that I found out what the joke was in Monday's paper. It was the concept of objectivity.

Christopher Poe
Business Administration

Put it to rest

Post-election result — it's over. The candidates are elected, the issues hopefully resolved. It is time to move on. Let's find something else to bitch about and put this election year to rest.

Todd Helton
Journalism

Ghost writer

We would like this opportunity to thank all of the students, staff and faculty who came together to participate in "Ghost Out," the first event sponsored by GAMMA (Greeks Advocating the Mature Management of Alcohol). These people gave up their valuable time to help educate the campus about drunk driving. Without their support and enthusiasm, the event could not have succeeded. Thank you.

Max Wallingford
IFC Social Issues

Oregon Daily Emerald

PROBATIONER: EUGENE, OREGON 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon.

The Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union and is a member of the Associated Press.

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