

Student benefits, perks are definitely not free

OUR OPINION: Most students do not question who pays for free items

Ah, the perks of being a University student. Everywhere you turn, someone seems to be giving you something for nothing. That student body card seems to encompass certain freedoms and privileges.

For starters, the LTD sticker you receive each term enables you to ride the bus without having to worry about how much change is in your pockets.

A flash of your identification card at Autzen will get you football tickets. With a temporary surrender of your student identification card, you can use the EMU Com-

puting Center's facilities — once again for no apparent cost.

Dorm residents might remember receiving University mugs and key chains at the beginning of the year and plugging in their televisions to seemingly free cable.

But all of these apparent perks are being paid for by you, the student. From the University Day T-shirts to the *Emerald*, you foot the bill.

Next time you encounter some "free stuff," take into consideration how "free" it actually is. Housing expenditures are more than \$4 million per year — nothing is free.

Folk Festival muddies more than EMU lawn

OUR OPINION: Schools' graduations cannot be moved off campus

The Willamette Valley Folk Festival has placed more in danger than the aesthetic quality of the EMU East Lawn. The muddy condition of the lawn, created by a mixture of rain and hippies, is threatening three events — two involving graduation.

The Oregon Grind, a rock festival scheduled to take place this weekend, will most likely be canceled. The giant mud pit in front of the stage needs to heal before another event can take place. Odds are, the entire lawn needs to be replanted.

The journalism and architecture and allied arts schools' commencement

ceremonies are currently scheduled to take place on that lawn. If the lawn is still a muddy mess in three weeks, these schools may have to graduate off-campus with a ridiculously small ticket limit as a result of a weekend of mud-covered fun, all because no one predicted that it might rain hard in Eugene in May.

We cannot let the University do this. The right of students in these schools to graduate on their own campus must be protected.

It is unjust and unfair for the University to expect these students to accept anything less than what the previous graduating class received. The University must move the ceremonies to another on-campus location.



Once upon a time ... there were forests

Once upon a time, fairy tales were read by moms and dads to little kids. Once upon a time, environmental fairy tales about families who lost their ranches to the Endangered Species Act were told by anti-environment politicians and then duly relayed by careless reporters.

Now comes a new environmental fairy tale, this time relayed by environmental groups and politicians claiming there is no forest health problem and that all the talk of dead and dying timber is — just talk.

As the timber salvage issue heads for a vote before a Senate panel this week, the discussion of forest health is heating up in Washington while fires rage in the Southwest.

Senator Bill Bradley, a New Jersey Democrat with Oval-Office aspirations, is damaging his own credibility and that of conservation groups with his fairy-tale claim that there is no forest health crisis.

"Data collected by the U.S. Forest Service say there is no crisis," Bradley recently said. "All the major environmental groups say there is no crisis."

Bradley claims that the problem is a manufactured one, put forth by timber-industry lobbyists who favor increased harvests.

Though I won't vouch for the ethics of industry lobbyists I've met, I can assure you that the forest health crisis is not their invention.

If you drive Highway 58 east of here or Highway 126 west to the coast, you'd think the only forest health crisis is the landslides caused by record rains and swollen streams. Where are all the dead and dying trees they keep talking about? Do they exist, or is it a fairy tale?

Industry lobbyists ought to put Bradley on a plane and fly him over the Blue Mountains in eastern Oregon. I've flown over most of the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests, and I've worked on wildfires in Oregon and California and Montana.

I've ridden horseback along ridges in eastern Oregon, where you can see for a hundred miles or more, and the sight of miles-long expanses of dead gray trees made the hair on the back of my neck stand up.

The long, deep canyons wind down from wind-blown ridges, with hawks drifting above thick stands of tightly packed dead trees — it sends shivers up your spine. Flying over ridge after slope after ridge of dense, dead timber stands is enough to make you cry.

Believe me, the forest health crisis is for real.

Just writing about it gives me the chills. But remembering the howling winds and raging walls of fire and billowing columns of smoke I've seen in wildfires, and then reading

Bradley's claims that there is no forest health crisis — well, that infuriates me.

If you haven't seen any dead and dying timber, go take a look. Imagine trees and underbrush so thick you can't walk through it. Some of it (usually found on the east side of forests) is so thick you can't drive a D-4 Cat bulldozer through it.

Old-timers there refer to it as "dog hair" timber — trees so closely spaced that it looks like hair on a dog's back. Now imagine that it's all tinder-dry and imagine that we're in another drought summer. Add lightning, and you have a prescription for disaster.

I know it's hard to handle the word "drought" with the record rainfall and flooding we've suffered recently.

But if you look at the last hundred years or so, you'll find that early heavy rains and flooding allow for a strong green-up and heavy growth of vegetation;

the years in which such conditions are followed by a hot dry summer are invariably record years for wildfires.

The dead and dying timber is for real. The fire hazard is real. Widespread damage from insect infestations and forest diseases is real. The need to deal with it is also real. But the claim that the forest health crisis is a figment of the industry's imagination is a fairy tale. Claiming that the Forest Service has denied a forest health crisis is just a baldfaced lie.

Senator Bradley and the environmental groups should recognize that such propaganda does not help their cause. Despite its flaws, the Forest Service is the best thing we've got going for us in terms of forest management.

Perhaps we'll live to see the day when everyone's happy with the management of our public lands. It's not likely, though. Consider this quote from the president:

"We are coming to recognize as never before ... the essential matter of natural resources. The time has come for a change. As a people we have the right and the duty ... to protect ourselves and our children against the wasteful development of our natural resources."

Teddy Roosevelt said that — 88 years ago last week — at the Governors' Conference on Conservation in 1908. We've been arguing about this for a long time and aren't likely to solve it to everyone's satisfaction.

In the meantime, we need to listen to statements such as Bradley's with a critical ear — and beware of fairy tales.

Kelly Andersson, a senior majoring in journalism, is a columnist for the Emerald. E-mail: boone@oregon.uoregon.edu

Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. BOX 1100 EUGENE, OREGON 97402

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. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices at Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union.

Unsigned editorials represent the opinion of the Emerald editorial board; signed columns represent the opinion of the columnist.

The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

Editor-in-Chief: David Thom

Managing Editor: Marjolene Edwards

Night Editor: David Thom

Community: Sherry Rainey, editor; Melissa LeBath, Dawn Paugh, Brian Womack

Higher Education: Regina Brown, editor; Jean M. Bond, Laura Kapschke, Jennifer Schmitt

Student Activities: Jennifer Carter, editor; Ashley Bach, Kristin Bailey, Doug Irving

Sports: Trevor Kearney, editor; Andrea DeYoung, assistant editor; Chris Hansen, Pete Schneider

Entertainment/Supplements: Nicole Krueger, editor

Free-lance: Lara Pittman, editor; On-Line: Joshua Olson, editor

Editorial: David Bartlett, Nicole Kristal, editors; Kelly Andersson, Jesse Buhner-Clancy, Keith Cunningham, Larry Hall, Kay Krauscheid, Sonja Sherwood

Copy Desk: Karl Hastings, copy chief; Paige Bills, Anna Beth Grimes, Tracy Picha, Paul Van Sickle

Photography: Matthew Stoffer, editor; Andrew Brackensick, En Min Chang, Elena Gerber, Shannon Kidduff, Darcie Weisman

Graphics: Dennis Bolt, Matt Garbon

General Manager: July Reed

Advertising: Becky Merchant, director; Anne Amador, Lee Van Bell, Yujin Chi, Marco Ching, Justin Gober, Nikki Harper, Matt Johnson, Heather Johnston, Sarah Mitchell, Trina Shanaman

Production: Michele Ross, manager; Ingrid White, coordinator; Shawna Abele, Rachel Cunningham, Laura Daniel, Nicole Herzmark, Carrie Jones, Tara Knight, Molly McCants, Carly Schlenker, Allison Storms, Michael Young

Business: Kathy Carlone, supervisor; July Connolly

Distribution: Jeff Johnson, John Long, Ferenc Rakoczi

Classified: Tara Gaultney, manager; Jennifer Neel, Jill Gehlen

Newsroom: (541) 346-5511 Display Advertising: (541) 346-3712

Business Office: (541) 346-5512 Classified Advertising: (541) 346-4343