

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF:
Steven Asbury
MANAGING EDITOR:
Thom Schoenborn
NIGHT EDITOR:
Mike Schmierbach & Laura Cadiz
EDITORIAL EDITORS:
Ashley Bach & Brian Diamond

OPINION

editorials, letters, commentary and perspective

NEWSROOM:
(541) 346-5511
DISPLAY ADVERTISING:
(541) 346-3712
BUSINESS OFFICE:
(541) 346-5512
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING:
(541) 346-4343



CHRIS HUTCHINSON/Emerald

Student voices needed to stop bill

OUR OPINION:
Oregon House Bill 3644 could eliminate incidental fees, and we must all help stop it

In an age of dwindling funding for higher education, one more benefit of attending college in Oregon may soon be taken away. At least, if some members of the Oregon House of Representatives have their way.

Currently in debate in the House Committee on Education is House Bill 3644, which would effectively eliminate the student incidental fee. We should all be worried.

For any student involved in an ASUO-funded program, the bill is a potential time bomb. A group of representatives and students from various state colleges are crusading to eliminate these programs' livelihood.

Our stand on student programs has sometimes been shaky, we admit. But when it comes to a move this drastic, this ridiculous, we must make our voice heard.

Students currently pay \$137 a term to fund 125 programs as well as other services. These include not only groups like the ASUO itself and Multicultural Center but also services like subsidized city bus travel and tickets to revenue-generating sports events.

The incidental fee is a vital and practical part of our education. It is more than just

CONTACT YOUR LEADERS

■ **Lee Beyer (D-Springfield)**
Phone: (503) 986-1442
E-mail: beyer.1.rep@state.or.us

■ **Kitty Piercy (D-Eugene)**
Phone: (503) 986-1439
E-mail: reppiercy@aol.com

■ **Floyd Prozanski (D-Eugene)**
Phone: (503) 986-1440
E-mail: floydprozanski@darkwing.uoregon.edu

■ **Cynthia Wooten (D-Eugene)**
Phone: (503) 986-1441
E-mail: wooten.rep@state.or.us

giving money to groups a student isn't necessarily involved in. It is more than just blindly giving up a large percentage of your tuition to student government, as some proponents argue.

It is an opportunity — to educate, to entertain, to diversify, to get experience, to involve, to annoy, to contribute to every student's education. The incidental fee can (and usually does) help all of us. Sometimes we don't let it. Sometimes we don't

realize it. But its benefits are widespread and undeniable to the students who recognize its power.

HB 3644 could stop all this. If the bill passes, the University, with the help of the ASUO, will be required to designate a small number of programs worthy of state funding. This will no doubt include, and most likely be limited to, large programs and services like the ASUO Executive and the EMU.

Modest-sized groups that serve a smaller student base will be cut and left to fend for themselves. The possibility of an optional student fee won't help these programs adequately either. But it is these programs that may be the most important.

In order to save the incidental fee from extinction, we must all become vocal in our opinions. Several students attended a public hearing on the bill last week and voiced their concerns, but more involvement is needed.

Much of our education is in the hands of a governing body filled with people we do not know. Let's make sure they take good care of it. Call your representative today.

This editorial represents the opinion of the Emerald editorial board.

LETTERS

Not applicable

Abbie Jensen (April 22, *ODE*) claims to speak for those of us whose loved ones have life-threatening diseases, but Abbie is wrong. My sister has multiple sclerosis and no amount of animal mutilation and death is going to help her one bit.

I have watched as the drugs and treatments that were developed through animal testing are tested on her. A year of shooting up legal medicine and numerous lab tests later, and my sis-

ter's condition had worsened.

What these self-proclaimed "humanitarian" scientists won't tell you is that any experiment conducted on animals must ultimately be tested on humans because the results of animal experimentation are not directly applicable to humans.

My sister nearly died from drugs that animal experimenters said were safe. It is impossible to induce an artificial condition in animals and derive information that applies to humans. Abbie Jensen's claims that animal

experimentation benefits humans is false.

Animal experimenters receive grants and salaries to conduct their torture. Do you honestly believe that the Neuroscience Dept. is going to say anything that jeopardizes their livelihood?

I've seen the pain that modern science has "humanely" subjected my sister too, and cannot see the sense in subjecting more animals to torture and continuing this insane cycle of abuse of

life just so scientists can keep their jobs and self-delusion that they are serving humanity.

Alternatives to this abuse exist and they need to be utilized over animal experimentation. I question the humanity of any person who subjects an unwilling creature to pain and suffering and uses people like my sister to justify it. I don't appreciate your lies and you don't speak for me!

Tracy A. Scharn
Religious Studies

Overheard

"I'm just a person who is honestly living my life and asking, 'How do you be spiritual and live in a monastery?'"

Musical star Jewel on the importance of values, even for a superstar

"They say if anybody sells it [Hustler Magazine] in Cincinnati, they're going to be arrested. Well, we're going to sell it on the street corners if we have to."

Larry Flynt, announcing he will bring Hustler back to Cincinnati where it is banned

"Looks like it's gonna be one of those years."

U2 lead singer Bono to 38,000 screaming fans, as quoted in the April 12 Register-Guard

"What good is wealth sitting in the bank?"

Millionaire Ted Turner's challenge to fellow businessmen Bill Gates and Warren Buffet to give more money to charity

"Joe Camel lives... Winston Cup is alive. Billboards are alive."

John Fithian, attorney for the American Advertising Federation, on the barring of a proposed ban by the FDA on tobacco product billboards and promotional events

"I care deeply about this process, which has been going on for thousands of years. I want to be a part of that, but am I actually going to get engaged? I have no clue."

City Councilman Bobby Lee on his trip to Korea to consider an arranged marriage, as quoted in the April 27 Register-Guard

"Choosing to undergo open heart surgery when I never felt sick was the hardest decision I ever made."

Arnold Schwarzenegger on his recent heart surgery

Talk to us

■ **BY MAIL:**
P.O. Box 3159,
Eugene, OR
97403

■ **BY PHONE:**
(541) 346-5511

■ **BY E-MAIL:**
ode@oregon.
uoregon.edu

■ **IN PERSON:**
Suite 300, EMU