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Tuesday, June 16, 2009 12:49 AM negreg09
Contributing Information on Abuse of Student Loans by Sallie Mae

Let's look at the numbers: I borrowed a total of $\mathbf{\$ 3 4 K}$ for graduate school and graduated in 1997. I consolidated my PHEAA (who added $\$ 7.5 \mathrm{~K}$ in interest) loans with Sallie Mae (who added $\$ 7.2 \mathrm{~K}$ in interest) just at the outset. Since graduation, I paid $\$ 25 K$ to Sallie Mae and still paying. I have been unemployed 3 times so had forbearances, yet continue to make payments and now owe them $\mathbf{\$ 5 7 . 5 K}$ (Sallie Mae has charged $\$ \mathbf{2 4 . 2 K}$ in interest). I am 65 and facing retirement. I ask you how do I retire with a school loan from 12 years ago doubling in size while I faithfully make payments? I think these numbers have a lot to say especially more than Sallie Mae who feels good in letting you know they are doing their job and allowing innocent and hard working people to take out their loans. -FEH

