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**From:** george haskins [george@insomnia.co.za]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2006 7:45 AM  
**To:** Banking Enquiry  
**Subject:** None necessary.

Dear Sir,

That the banks are overcharging us is a given. My examples are such.

1. I proudly opened a savings account for my grandson. It was only a R100.00. Imagine my surprise when I received a statement and an explanation that I was overdrawn on this account. Remember that a minimum of R50.00 has to be kept in the account. On inquiry I found that bank charges had taken care of the money and the interest The amount was supposed to be earning did not cover the bank charges. Needless to say my grandson does not have that supposed windfall coming to him.
2. It took me 6 months to get my explanation through to my uneducated black assistant as to why his money was always short. He would go to any ATM and withdraw R10.00. It would cost him almost another R10.00 in charges. Withdrawal charges levied by his own bank and then charges for cross bank withdrawal. He now withdraws all his money at one time. This of course leaves him open to being robbed by the unscrupulous who are on the constant lookout for this exact happening. The queues at the ATMs in Windermere centre at lunch time on a Friday are testament to these charges.
3. My own personal gripe is the charges levied on internet bankers. I am charged for every transaction I make on the internet. I wrote a letter to the editor of the Natal Mercury about this very subject. Imagine my surprise when I was contacted by the powers that be at Standard Bank to have a discussion about this. At the end of a long debate all that emerged was that the internet programme that Standard have is imported and therefore we have to pay for that service. It appears that we do A. not have the necessary skills in South Africa to develop our own programme or B. that South Africans are far too expensive. My opinion is that this is absolute balderdash.

These are just 3 examples of banking overcharge. The sportsman of South Africa will suffer if the banks do not support them. SHAME. The banks show record profits so how about a little if this back to us They could also pay the banking staff a little more and maybe we would get a little better service from them. Please understand I am not begrudging the banks the right to make money but they are taking it out of the mouths of Joe Average worker. Ninety percent of companies in South Africa insist that each worker has to have a bank account. This is to facilitate the payment of wages to their staff. The companies concerned get a rebate for using the bank. This rebate is then collected from Joe A. in some way or another.

I have gone deeply into this matter and can carry on for a while but I think enough is enough.

Thank you for your time.  
George Haskins