

OSA helps students out of legal squeezes



Don Chalmers

By STEVE BELL
Of the Emerald

There are still a few free things to take advantage of on campus — and legal aid and advice is one of them.

The Office of Student Advocacy (OSA) provides assistance and knowledge of the legal system to any student currently enrolled in classes having legal questions.

General information about criminal proceedings, landlord-tenant relations and administrative hassles are only a few of the areas in which the OSA assists students.

Don Chalmers, OSA director, coordinates the office for the ASUO and says "We basically try to clear up any legal questions in the student's mind, but we also have a lawyer referral service." Chalmers also said the OSA provides legal research to get the

facts when it is necessary.

The OSA is divided into four specific areas, and Chalmers maintains the office of director. Chalmers assigns legal research, provides reports to the ASUO and generally makes sure that all students receive adequate assistance in the OSA.

The Legal Services Division (LSD) has two full-time attorneys and four legal assistants, ready to deal with most student-related problems on an individual basis. LSD informs students of their options while explaining court procedures. The attorneys can help students until reaching the trial stage of the complaint, but they may never take part in the actual trial. Because of this, LSD has a referral service helping students to locate an attorney with some amount of expertise in specific areas of conflict. LSD will also

help students organize non-profit corporations, but it does not provide tax services, or aid in the drafting of a will.

Research and corresponding advice are handled through the Research and Development Division (RDD) and the Legal Research Pool. The RDD takes on most of the in-depth research. It primarily serves large groups of students of the ASUO itself. This area recently completed work on the student conduct code.

Three law clerks provide research for more individualized cases in the Legal Research Pool. They report their findings to Chalmers, who reviews the facts before deciding on further support needed to help the student through his turmoil.

OSA also has an ombudsman service available to students for dealing with administrative policy

and residency review. This service provides advice on county, city, state, federal or college administration problems. Chalmers claimed this service is "especially helpful to those who might have a hard time dealing with the large administrative bodies."

The OSA is kept busy with a steady stream of students; usually 10 to 15 a day, in addition to the legal research and advice it provides to the ASUO.

Legal advice is also available at the law school. Several students maintain an office there to answer any questions about the facets of law. This office also offers a referral service for students seeking an attorney.

The law library is open to students who wish to do their own research. A part-time librarian offers assistance in locating information to the novice researcher.

People's Law School offers free workshop

The People's Law School began a series of free workshops Wednesday with a class on federal and state income tax preparation. The classes, sponsored by the Student Bar Association (SBA), are in their fourth year.

Open to the public, the classes are usually taught by second and third-year law students, and occasionally by first year students.

"The law students work on a voluntary basis and the program is funded somewhat by the SBA," says John Mehringer, coordinator of the People's Law School.

Persons may attend any or all of

the classes without charge.

"In the past, there have actually been some people who have attended every class session," Mehringer said. Depending on the subject offered, class attendance varies from 30 to 50.

The classes meet Wednesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. in the second floor of Central Presbyterian Church, 15th Avenue and Ferry Street.

A recent class covered common income tax problems, tax forms, reporting income from self employment, rental income, capital gains and losses, tax consequences of divorce, the new child

care tax credit and surviving an IRS audit.

Future courses include "Battling Bureaucracy" on Feb. 9. Procedures whereby citizens can challenge local and federal government decisions affecting their lives and property as well as agency and local government appeals procedures will be explained.

"Legal Research" will be examined Feb. 16 and 17. The two-evening class gives an overview of law library materials and their use. Those planning to attend on Thursday should also attend Wednesday's class.

A class entitled "Prisoner's Rights" follows on Feb. 23. The discussion is planned for those who have friends or relatives in prison, or have been incarcerated before, but is open to the public.

A "Landlord-Tenant Relations" class which Mehringer says is always heavily attended by both landlords and tenants is slated to follow on March 2.

"Consumer Credit," offered March 9, will deal with buying on credit and reading the fine print.

Consumer rights against credit reporting agencies and collection agencies will be discussed.

"Environmental and Natural Law" will provide introduction to the law and politics of the environment on March 9.

"Juvenile Law," following on March 30, will cover young people's rights, the juvenile court system and special laws affecting youth.

The school examines "Search and Seizure" on April 6. The class

will include the extent of a person's right to be secure against unreasonable police invasions of person and property. Search warrants, consent searches, "plain view," "stop and frisk" and inventory searches will also be explained.

"Buying Land in Oregon" is scheduled for April 13. The course covers the parties, papers and payments involved when a person decides to stop piling up rent receipts and pursue the joys of home ownership.

Urban planning (Cont. from P. 1)

One topic currently under study in Utah and Idaho, the "Designation of Natural Areas by Air Quality," will attempt to study the possibility of establishing certain areas in Oregon according to their air quality rating.

At present, air quality is rated on a three-point scale, with most Oregon air receiving a "two" rating. The air quality study would set criteria for designating air receiving a rating of "one" as a nonindustrial or natural area.

Although each of the four studies will make only recommendations to their respective client groups, Povey is confident that many of the studies will be acted upon.

"I doubt that any legislation will be introduced this year as a result of our work," Povey said, "but these are a whole series of questions to be addressed, so it's only reasonable to expect that further research will be conducted by the groups we send our reports to. What we'll try to do is give sufficient information to help these agencies make better decisions."

Unlike the workshop, the eight seminars will not publish reports and are taught by people working in an outside field related to each topic, who, in Povey's words, will share from a practitioner's point of view.

Because of the experimental basis of the classes there was only a minimal amount of advertisement, with each course averaging an enrollment of about 13 students.

Each course meets in two three-hour sessions during the term. Of the eight seminars, one has already been completed and two others have had their first

class meeting.

The seminar topics include "Fiscal Impact Analysis," taught by Ed Whitelaw, associate professor of economics, on the costs associated with urban planning.

Another, "Economic Development in Underdeveloped Regions," taught by Steve Mustoe, deals with development in the context of an industrialized society and ways it could best be accomplished.

"Planning and Public Communication," taught by Bob Baily, examines public decision-making and ways of using the media to communicate architectural planning and its processes to the public.

"The Planner and the Elected Official" and "The Politician and the Planner," two classes taught by former Lane County commissioner Nancy Hayward and Lane County planner Lee Miller, explore urban planning from different political perspectives.

Other courses include "Energy Planning, Environmental Impact Assessment and LCDC and Regional Planning Coordination."

Although the seminars are new for winter term, Povey pointed out that chances of building them into regular classes to be offered each term are good, depending on their success.

Courses beginning to take shape for spring term include "Planning in the Private Sector," "Natural Resource Planning," "Coastal Management," "Growth Control Techniques" and "The Utopian Community." Interested students should contact the Department of Urban and Regional Planning for further information, x3635.

Arabs 'export' garbage

NEW YORK (AP) — For years, Americans have been paying Saudi Arabia to take out oil from the Arab nation. Now Saudi Arabia is paying an American firm the lion's share of a \$243-million contract to take out something else — the garbage in the capital city of Riyadh.

It's the latest evidence of growing profit opportunities for American entrepreneurs as the Saudi government opens its vast wealth from oil profits to improve the country's standard of living.

Waste Management, Inc., based in the Chicago suburb of Oak Park, Ill., said Monday it has a six per cent interest in the joint-venture contract with the Saudi government to establish a city sanitation service and operate it for five years.

Its partner in the deal is Saudi Pritchard Ltd., owned by the Saudi government and Britains' Pritchard Services Ltd.



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