

Free classes offer answers about law

By David Brown
Of the Emerald

Many people — especially college students — can be victims of ignorance of the law, says Paul Cossman, a University law school student.

Cossman has responded to many legal questions during the free People's Law School classes sponsored by the University law school and Lane County Legal Aid.

Those questions often involve a legal encounter in the student's past or a legal right the student is unaware of, Cossman says.

In an effort to prevent legal entanglements, the informal classes attempt to explain the law for lay people, according to the PLS.

The first class of fall session begins tonight with three law school students speaking on how and when to find a lawyer or legal advisor, the difference between civil and criminal law, and how lawsuits work. In addition, Cossman will speak about court systems.

Other classes will cover such topics as presenting a case in small claims court and the rights of landlords and tenants.

As an example, Cossman asks how many people living off

campus know landlords must supply tenants with a number of services such as grounds maintenance unless otherwise stated in a written agreement separate from the lease.

All legal situations are "fact specific." Laws do not apply as blanket commandments, notes Cossman.

And knowledge of any law should be tempered with understanding. "The law is just something to revert to if (relations) break down," Cossman says.

The school caters to legal education needs in the community, says Sue Heint of Legal Aid.

"We get a lot of input about what people would like to see in the classes," she says. "We're sort of a local institution now."

By popular request, "Cooperatives and Non-Profit Corporations" is a new class this fall. Some classes change from one session to another, Heint says.

The school is in its 11th year. But attendance started climbing only after it moved into the community from campus three years ago, Heint says.

The two-hour classes meet every Wednesday at 7 p.m. in the Patterson Community School.

Study nabs council approval

After an hour-long bandy of words over proposed restrictions on Joe Romania Chevrolet property, the Fairmount-University Special Area Study snagged a unanimous final approval by the Eugene city council Monday night.

The study sets guidelines for further development in the neighborhood.

The proposed restriction, a site review provision, would require Romania to acquire city approval prior to property development. The process costs \$350 and takes 30 to 45 days.

Members of the Fairmount commission, which invested two years of planning in the study, testified to the council that the restrictions were needed to protect the adjoining neighborhood from noise, unsightliness and excessive lighting.

Whereas other businesses along Franklin Boulevard and the University agreed to site reviews, Romania did not, testified Don Dumond, University professor and chairer of the neighborhood planning commission.

The finalized provision should not be so stringent as to bring hardship on the dealership for minor changes,



Emerald photo

A proposal passed unanimously by the Eugene city council will restrict property development at Joe Romania Chevrolet, which borders Franklin Blvd.

testified Dumond.

"We feel (the provision) restricts us from making improvements on the property because it adds uncertainty to the actual cost," said Steve Romania, general manager.

How, when and why to invoke the restriction would not be simple, Councilor Brian Obie argued during an ensuing council discussion.

"It bothers me to see us continuously developing restrictions and standards just

because we have the authority to do that," he continued.

Obie then moved the plan be adopted with a "further softening" of the proposal wording.

But Councilor Gretchen Miller contended the proposal already did no more than suggest site review be considered.

"When I read the definition of a proposal (in the study), it's a far cry from zoning property. I think this is more a semantic problem," she said.

OHSU acquires grant to set up new program

A \$360,000 three-year grant will help establish a new master's program at the Oregon Health Sciences University School of Nursing.

Nursing in Community Health Care Systems will begin next fall. It is designed for nurses interested in administration, community health and the coordination of various health services, according to Caroline White, chairer of the School of Nursing's department of community health systems.

White notes students will learn to create and implement systems of care to meet the health needs of various groups of people, such as school-age children, the elderly, workers, mothers and infants and the ill.

The funding allotted for this year will be used to plan and develop the program's cur-

riculum. White says the first class of nurses will begin in September 1983.

"Our goal in designing the courses is for students to develop understanding about health and health care, and practice the skills of research and systems analysis to test strategies which nurses can use to create effective and comprehensive health care programs," says White.

Content in courses will include community health nursing, nursing administration, and health policy. Also students may take classes from other departments in the nursing school. Field experience will be integrated into the curriculum with students working in a nursing service organization or a community or home health agency.

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knowledgeable."

As with rape, University students are a prime targets for burglaries and thefts, Allison says.

One of the things Allison is combating right now is the theft of large amounts of money — mostly student money from registration — that is being stolen from dorm rooms. According to Allison, the thieves know this is registration time and that large amounts of money will be changing hands. The thieves also know access to the dorms is easy and students are generally pretty careless about locking their doors.

As for personal property, Allison says would-be thieves also know students "have nice, expensive things — bikes, stereo equipment and such." But, he adds, students will spend \$600 on a bike and \$2.50 on a chain.

With bikes, Allison stresses the need for students to protect themselves. "Students have to be willing to invest in a competent locking system and use it," he says.

Bike theft is no small crime in Eugene. According to Allison, \$239,000 worth of bicycles were stolen from the "campus community" in 1981.

Last spring, two Emerald staff members reported on a "class field experiment," in which they "stole" five bikes on and around the campus. Several of the locks were cut with a pair of two-foot long bolt cutters. They — Students need to take time to be concerned, Allison says, not just for themselves but about others, too.

"I'd take all the false alarms in the world to catch one bad person," Allison says.

If a theft or burglary does oc-

cur, the best way to recover the property is to be able to identify it. "We get people who can't even remember the brand name of their bike," he marvels.

But while the brand name is helpful, serial numbers and/or an identification number, engraved on the item, and written down in a file elsewhere is the surest way.

Allison says the best number to use is an Oregon Driver's License number, and if one doesn't drive or has an out-of-state license, the motor vehicles department will issue them an ID card with a number.

But aside from any other method, Allison and Tanner insist that students who are aware of crime and take personal responsibility, for avoiding crime are the ones most likely to avoid it.

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