

Students seek advocate's advice on University problems

By Jeff Morgan
Emerald Reporter

Editor's Note: This is the first of a three-part series about ASUO agencies. The University Mediation Program will be covered in Friday's Emerald. ASUO Legal Services will be covered in Monday's Emerald.

Lucy Kaplan talks a lot about student empowerment. As director of the ASUO's Of-

fice of Student Advocacy, that's part of her job. The office helps students deal with University Conduct Code violations, grievances against the administration or faculty members, affirmative action cases, run-ins with financial aid or the University business office, problems with University housing, and other situations that might come between students and the University.

"We want to empower students," Kaplan said.

Although a student may not win an argument with the University, going through the advocacy process may help to avoid future confrontations. Avoiding locking horns with the University is what Kaplan means by empowerment.

"Winning a case is not the same as empowerment," she explained. "When it's not possible to win a case, it's still possible to empower the student; to help that student prevent similar problems in the future, and to become skilled in being his or her own advocate."

"I like to see (student advocacy) as a little bit of an instructive and teaching experience as well as a representational experience," said Kaplan, who is beginning her second year in the post.

In addition to Kaplan's work with individual students, which takes up most of her time, she also serves as a resource to the ASUO Executive, for whom she helps formulate policy positions on

University rules and policies.

For example, Kaplan points to the office's work last year in lobbying against mandatory drug testing for University athletes. That policy has since been suspended by the chancellor's office of the Oregon State System of Higher Education. The advocate's office also requested a clarification on the appeals process for sexual harassment cases at the University and helped affect an expansion of affirmative action rights for gays and lesbians.

Kaplan said that this year the office is working with the registrar to facilitate restriction of students' personal information, such as phone number and local and home addresses, which is now public information and printed in the University student directory.



Lucille Kaplan

ASUO President Kasey Brooks said she has been happy working with Kaplan. "Lucy has proven to be an excellent advocate for students," Brooks said. "We do have close ties with OSA (Office of Student Advocacy), and I think that they help us a lot."

Brooks also said that among the duties the advocacy office performs is to give testimony on behalf of the ASUO to the State Legislature.

Although the student advocate works on legal issues, one of the main things that separates the office from ASUO Legal Services is that the advocate works only on University-related issues. Kaplan has a law degree; however, she is not a member of the Oregon State Bar Association, meaning she cannot practice law in Oregon.

Kaplan came to Eugene from New York City, where she was an appellate criminal lawyer for the Legal Aid Society and a volunteer attorney for the Animal Defense Fund. She also taught legal research and writing at New York Law School and Brooklyn Law

Turn to Advocate, Page 7

Et al.

MEETINGS

The Public Relations Student Society of America will hold its first informational meeting of the year tonight at 4 p.m. in 221 Allen.

The Mortar Board Honor Society will hold a mandatory meeting tonight at 6:30 p.m. in EMU Walnut Room.

The Presidential Scholars Association will hold a meeting tonight at 5:30 p.m. in Cedar Room A EMU.

MISCELLANEOUS

A workshop on becoming an International Studies major will be held today at 3 p.m. in 164 Oregon Hall.

Eugene artist Nancy Holzhauser is currently displaying a collection of watercolor paintings in the lobby of the Lane County Courthouse/Public Service Building, 125 E. 8th St. The exhibit can be viewed 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday during October.

The World Student Service Group will be selling baked goods in front of the University Bookstore today from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. to raise money for books to send to Guatemala.

The film, "Mother Teresa," will be shown tonight from 7 to 9 p.m. in EMU Century D.

Thursday, October 8, 1987

Seeking Top Notch Volleyball Players

for U of O Club Volleyball Team

- Meeting Thursday, October 8, 4:00 pm
- Century Room F in EMU

For more detailed info leave name and number at the Club Sports Office- Ground Floor EMU RM. 5 • 686-3733



Before you choose a long distance service, take a close look.



You may be thinking about choosing one of the newer carriers over AT&T in order to save money.

Think again.

Since January 1987, AT&T's rates have dropped more than 15% for direct-dialed out-of-state calls. So they're lower than you probably realize. For information on specific rates, you can call us at 1 800 222-0300.

And AT&T offers clear long distance connections, operator assistance, 24-hour customer service, and immediate credit for wrong numbers. Plus, you can use AT&T to call from anywhere to anywhere, all over the United States and to over 250 countries.

You might be surprised at how good a value AT&T really is. So before you choose a long distance company, pick up the phone.



AT&T

The right choice.