

# Hazy grievance procedures require intense advocacy

By Frale de Guzman  
Emerald Reporter

While speaking before the Student Senate Thursday, Lucy Kaplan, director of the Office of Student Advocacy, claimed that currently two types of student grievance procedures exist on the University campus — those that are petitionable and those that are grievable.

Petitionable procedures, Kaplan said, are decisions taken by the University that students can appeal. Unlike its counterpart, Kaplan added, grievable procedures require students to play a more aggressive role in rectifying an injustice committed against them.

However, for students attempting to file grievance procedures, few guidelines and policies are available to them.

Student grievance procedures that have been recorded are "buried in a mass of other grievance procedures that have nothing to do with the students," Kaplan said. Many of these procedures deal with the grievances of faculty and staff members.

According to Kaplan, recorded student grievance procedures are "few and far between on this campus," and

even less directly deal with student concerns, especially in the area of educational and sexual discrimination.

"The University still has to prepare regulations that will bring us closer to the mandates of the state government regarding grievance procedures," Kaplan said.

But difficulties often arise when filing grievance complaints. Not only do students need to create new forms, but many of these students are filing complaints with little or no guidance. According to Kaplan, most of these students have no idea what forms to fill out or who to talk to should a grievance arise.

Although a description of current student grievance procedures can be found in Division Three of the Oregon Administrative Rule, these guidelines do not describe the nature of the decision-making

process.

In addition, many regulations directly focusing on student concerns are not in existence yet or are floating around individual University departments. Until these procedures are committed to writing, nothing tangible can be shown to aid students through the grievance procedure, Kaplan said.

The few procedures that have been committed to writing are inconsistently organized and difficult to understand. As a result, she said, "we've been inventing a lot of procedures to fill the gaps in existing grievance guidelines that exist in current regulation."

The improvement and unification of a student grievance policy that categorizes various student grievances and procedures is a goal Kaplan is determined to complete by early summer.

## Coffee hour provides worldly flavor

By Jeff Morgan  
Emerald Reporter

Every other Friday, people from around the world meet, talk and drink coffee in the EMU.

For more than 20 years, the University's Foreign Student Organization has sponsored the International Coffee Hour in the EMU's International Lounge. The coffee hours are part socialization, part information presentation.

The presentations can range from a slide show on a foreign country to an informaton session on the intricacies of getting a license and driving a car in the United States.

This term, students from Thailand presented the food and culture of their country at the coffee hour, and ASUO Student Advocate Lucy Kaplan

discussed about student rights and the Student Conduct Code.

Tenant rights and responsibilities will be discussed by a representative from the University area's largest rental agency, Income Property Management, at today's coffee hour at 4 p.m. The discussion will center on how to deal with landlord/tenant disputes and how to avoid problems when moving into or out of an apartment or house.

About 20-30 people usually attend the coffee hours, according to FSO Assistant Director Rosana Villarreal. Villarreal, a public relations major from Bogota, Columbia, said that about 80 percent of the people at the coffee hours are foreigners. But she stressed that everyone is welcome, adding that the FSO would like to see more Americans attending.

"We want to welcome more Americans," Villarreal said.

"It's a wonderful opportunity to practice languages, and you find people from everywhere in the world; you find people from every continent."

The coffee is free; Valentine's Travel has sponsored the coffee hours for the past two years.

Kate Heber, manager of the EMU branch of Valentine's, said they started sponsoring the events when the then-president of FSO booked some airline tickets at Valentine's. The president got into a conversation with Valentine's manager Kathy Ryals, the conversation turned to the FSO and the coffee hours. Ryals then offered to sponsor the events.

The coffee hours are at 4 p.m. in the International Lounge. After today, the next one scheduled is a Christmas party Dec. 11, complete with Christmas carols from around the world.



### Peace through music

Shri Tejendra Narayan Majmudar, award-winning sarode virtuoso, will perform the Gandharva style of music at Bell Hall tonight at 8 p.m., as a part of the Maharishi's Festival of Music for World Peace.

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