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Handbook Continued from Page 1

updating the handbook is expensive, but OSPIRG covers the costs

Along with legal information, the handbook includes a sample renter's contract and an inventory/condition report. Mike Coffino, Co-director of OSPIRG's Consumer hotline. said many renter's problems can be avoided if the renter knows what he or she is getting. into ahead of time. The Renter's Handbook is one way to get a fix on renter's rights and obligations.

Students can also get information an renter's rights and other legal issues by calling the Consumer Hotline "About 99 percent of our calls are involved with rent." Drake said.

He added that the hotline is the only one of its kind in the state. "Other places won't answer questions about rights over the phone," he said.

The Consumer hotline doesn't try to interpret the law. but they can refer callers to sections of the law that pertain to their case. Renters can use that information when confronting a landlord with a problem.

"Often landlords don't know the law either." Drake said. They may be just as ignorant (as the renter)."

"Knowledge is power," Drake said, and as Eugene renter Nancy Compton found out, just telling her landlord that

she had contacted the Consumer hotline prompted the landlord to return her \$300 deposit.

Compton said she had placed the deposit on an apartment in Junction City before the apartment was vacant because she was having trouble finding a place to live in the area. While she was waiting for the previous tenants to move out. Compton found a vacant apartment nearby. The landlord who took the deposit agreed to return Compton's money, but three weeks later, she was still waiting for the check.

She explained the situation to a worker at the hotline, and they told her that the landlord had 30 days to return her deposit under Oregon law. Compton told the landlord she had called the hotline, and said she had a check from the landlord within a couple of days.

Drake stressed that the hotline "usually doesn't intervene" in renter-landlord disagreements. "We're not lawvers," he said. "We can read word-for-word what it says in the actual statute, but were not talking as lawyers.

Students or others who wish to solve or avoid rental problems can purchase the Renter's Handbook at any OSPIRG office. The cost, which covers publication costs, is \$3 for students: \$4 for others. For \$1 extra, OSPIRG can send a copy through the mail.

The Consumer Hotline can be reached by calling 346-HELP. and will begin taking calls again on April 2. Hotline hours depend on availability of people to answer calls, but callers can leave their name and telephone number on an answering machine day or night.

OSPIRG also has free brochures telling renters how to get deposits back and answering common rental questions. These and other brochures are available at the OSPIRG offices in the EMU



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON CONTINUATION CENTER

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Two sections offered: Tuesdays and Thursdays, April 3-12, 9:30 a.m. 12:00 Noon, or Wednesdays, April 4:25, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Fee is \$95 plus \$5 for materials. UO students pay only \$48!

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to join the Continuation Center's community microcomputer classes

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Evaluating OS/2 (IBM-PC)

One day section: Wednesday, April 25, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Fee is \$24 plus \$5 for materials.

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Hard Disk Space Saver on the IBM-PC

One-week section: Tuesday and Thursday, April 24 and 26, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 Noon. Fee is \$53 plus \$5 for materials. UO students pay only

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Ventura Publisher: Level I (IBM-PC)

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AutoCAD v10: Level I (IBM-PC)

One three-day section: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, April 17, 18 and 19, 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Fee is \$175 plus \$8 for materials

AutoCAD v10: Level II (IBM-PC)

One three-day section: Friday, Saturday and Sunday, April 20, 21 and 22, 9:00 a.m. 4:00 p.m. Fee is \$175 plus \$8 for materials

Adobe Illustrator 88 (Macintosh)

One weekend section: Saturday and Sunday, April 28 and 29, 8:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Fee is \$95 plus \$5 for materials. UO students pay only \$48!

Aldus Freehand 2.0: Level I (Macintosh)

One four-week section: Thursdays, April 5-26, 1:30-4:00 p.m. Fee is 595 plus \$5 for materials. UO students pay only \$48!

PageMaker 3.0: Level I (Macintosh)

One four-week section: Tuesdays, April 3-24, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Fee is \$95 plus \$5 for materials. UO students pay only \$48!

PageMaker 3.0: Level II (Macintosh)

One two-week section: Mondays and Wednesdays, April 2-11, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Fee is \$95 plus \$5 for materials. UO students pay only \$48!



To register call the Continuation Center at 346-3537

Or register in person at the Continuation Center, 1553 Moss Street.



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