

**Can't stop learning**

For Oregonians who never want to stop learning, the University's Continuing Education Program offers many options

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**Stand-out Stanford**

Academic powerhouse Stanford shows it is also an athletic powerhouse in its recent appearance in the NCAA Final Four

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**TODAY**

A talk about "Equal Marriage Rights for Lesbians and Gays" will take place at Grayson 229 at noon.

**WEATHER**

**Today**  
Partly cloudy  
High 54. Low 35.  
**Thursday**  
Showers  
High 54. Low 36.

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## EMU coffee selection protested

Competitors say the winner of the EMU's coffee contract should not have been invited to the final review process

By Doug Irving  
Student Activities Editor

A controversy has been brewing in the EMU.

The hot topic is coffee and the company chosen to fill the EMU's cups.

EMU Food Services picked Seattle Coffee Co. as the apparent winner of the three-year contract, which will likely be worth more than \$70,000 each year. The choice is not final and probably will not be definite until early next week.

The decision steamed Cafe Orsini, which filed a protest last week. It argues Seattle Coffee should not have been invited to the final review process, and that the company won the contract only after the process was changed.

Royal Blue Organics also protested the decision, arguing the EMU should look for more environmentally and politically conscious coffee suppliers.

Seattle Coffee offered the best all-around package, explained EMU Food Service coordinator Theresa Coleman-Kaiser. The committee thought Seattle Coffee offered better options and would fit in better with the EMU's needs, she said.

"They did not come out No. 1 in taste," she said. "They also were not the least priced; they were among the highest priced."

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The EMU decided last year to change coffee brands.

It wanted a new coffee to serve in the espresso bar and coffee house that are part of the EMU building renovations. The change will affect all coffee servers controlled by EMU Food Services.

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## Tennis anyone?



LAURA GOSS/ Emerald

A construction crew tears down the covered tennis courts in order to make room for the new fitness center at East 15th and University Street on Monday.

## Two services help resolve legal disputes

The services, both located in the EMU, are designed to assist students with legal problems

By Amalie Young  
Higher Education Reporter

A landlord barges into a tenant's apartment without warning or reason. He promises to fix a broken refrigerator, but it never happens. He refuses to return the tenant's security deposit even though the apartment is left in pristine condition when vacated.

Student renters can obtain legal assistance for problems like these at the Office of Student Legal Services, located on the third floor of the EMU. The office provides assistance in civil cases, most often landlord-tenant and domestic-relations disputes, and in minor criminal misdemeanor cases, such as shoplifting and trespassing.

Fully funded by incidental fees, the program is one of only a handful around the country that provide legal services without taking a percentage of the money awarded in civil claims cases, said Ilona Koleszar, director of Student Legal Services.

Staffed by two lawyers and a number of part-time law students, the office provides legal assistance to between 1,100 and 1,300 students a year.

"I give people all the advice they can stand for free," Koleszar said.

There are some exceptions to cases the office decides to take on. Personal injury claims and serious felonies, for instance, are referred to local lawyers, Koleszar said.

"If someone is charged with rape, we will give initial legal advice and then get them into the right hands," she said. She encourages local lawyers to lower their rates to accommodate student budgets.

Students who are charged with violations on campus that also fall under the Student Conduct Code, such as trespassing on University property, will often have to resolve their problems in both jurisdictions,

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## PFC grants students the power to allocate major funding

Most campus organizations receive some funding from the student-run committee

By Kristina Rudinskas  
Student Activities Reporter

The end is finally in sight for the Programs Finance Committee.

The committee's 1998-99 budget proposals will be voted on Wednesday night by the Student Senate. The PFC will ask the Senate to allocate more than \$2.5 million to 92 different student groups.

The Designated Driver Shuttle, the Women's Center, the Oregon Commentator and most other student associations receive part or all of their funding through the PFC.

Each group has an opportunity during winter term to present its proposed budget to the PFC in a 20-minute presentation.

The PFC decides whether to grant the group's funding proposal or lower the amount of funding the group receives for the following school year.

"We try to come up with guidelines, but each group is so individual and has a variety of activities and programs," PFC member Michelle Johnston said.

The approval process can be tedious. The seven-member committee spent an average of 20 hours each week listening to group presentations, reviewing budget proposals and debating funding amounts.

"Coming up with a cookie-cutter formula for distributing money to a wide variety of groups is difficult," PFC Chair Dave Koch explained.

The PFC looks for a variety of items when reviewing groups: How large the group's membership is on campus, how

many students benefit from the group's activities, and how money was used from the previous year's budget. These are just a few of the questions PFC members pay attention to during the presentations.

"My first question is, what kind of fund-raising did the group do?" PFC Vice Chair Greg Labavitch said.

PFC members try to increase groups' funding along a benchmark approved by the Student Senate, which aimed for a 2-percent general increase. The benchmark is used as a guideline, Johnston said. This year, the PFC approved funding increases to 72 student groups, decreased funding for 14 and kept 6 groups at the same funding.

Groups have the opportunity to appeal

the PFC's decision later during winter term. The PFC granted four appeals this year.

"If the group brings in visual aids — tangible evidence of their activities — they usually got more money," Koch said.

One of the most prepared presentations was given by the Chinese Student Association, Johnston said.

"We are average students," she said. "We don't see everything on campus, and it's hard for us to know how active a group is before the 20-minute presentation."

The unique aspect of the PFC is the enormous power students have to allocate money to student groups.

"We are the only body, probably on the West Coast, that doles out student fees purely by students," Johnston said.

