

# Help for small claims

By VIRINIA MARTIN

The Small Claims Court Action Center officially opened Tuesday to help community members and students prepare cases and collect awarded money, said Dylan Jones, student director of the center.

The center was also designed to provide citizens with information about their rights to resolve disputes in court, Jones said. It will also teach community members and students about the small claims procedures, a misunderstood, hence under-utilized method for resolving conflicts, he said.

One problem is people don't understand the small claims court system, get frustrated, and never finish going through the process, said Jones.

***'People just don't realize how inexpensive and effective the small claims court can be'***  
-Jones

"Small claims court is a place where people can go to recover money from someone who has wronged them," said Eric A. Goldstein in his pamphlet "How to get Your Day (Or Night) In Small Claims Court." Small claims, he said, helps citizens settle disputes quickly and inexpensively.

Examples of common claims, Jones said, deal with purchasing of faulty consumer products, failure to be returned security deposits, and unfair prices for services rendered.

Jones said a claim up to \$1,500 may be brought to the small claims court.

To file a claim you have to go to the clerk's office of the county where you wish to sue, Jones said. If the person you want to sue lives or has their place of business in another county, that is where you must file, he said. When

you file you must pay a filing fee of \$4.89, he added.

"People just don't realize how inexpensive and effective the small claims court can be, said Jones. "With a little time and \$4.89, a person can have their case heard without incurring the expense of a lawyer," he added.

The price of suing is much more simple than most people think, especially when the center helps out, said Jones.

The center will help you gather all the documents, such as receipts, you might need to have an effective case, Jones said. It will also help figure out which documents are vital to the case, he said.

If necessary, a student will be referred to the CCSA attorney for further advice, Jones said.

If you win the case in court, the first thing you must do is write a letter to the defendant stating you won the case and would like to collect the money awarded you, Jones said. The center also provides assistance in this area, he added. If no response is received from the defendant you should write once again, he said.

If you still don't get a response there are other actions you could take, Jones said, such as placing a lien on the defendant's property or collecting directly from a banking account. These actions must be made with the assistance of a sheriff, he said.

The Small Claims Court Action Center will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and from 5 to 7 p.m. People seeking information can call (607) 753-5785 or visit the Center located in the NYPRIG office in the Corey Union.

NYPRIG is involved in other aspects of small claims court as well, according to Jones. NYPRIG is trying to persuade state legislators to make a couple of changes in the system, said Jones, by urging the legislature to raise the amount a person can sue from \$1,500 to \$2,000, he said.

NYPRIG also wants tenants to be able to sue landlords where the tenant lives, Jones said. Presently, you must sue a landlord where he lives or has an office, he said.



## Fall time:

You know October is here when you see the products this vender is displaying on his stand.

## SAB GENERAL MEETING

ALL WELCOME

Tues. 7 pm

Fireplace Lounge

We'll be planning activities using your funding!

PLEASE COME !!

## SENIOR CLASS MEETING

ALL SRS PLEASE ATTEND !!!!

Oct. 22, 1986 7:00

in Exhibition Lounge at Corey Union

Officers will be elected and there will be a discussion on Spring Activities.



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