

Women's hoop team
wins over Portland
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Oregon Daily Emerald

Tuesday, January 20, 1987

Eugene, Oregon

Volume 88, Number 83

Task Force explores University child care strengths and needs

By Sarah Kitchen
Of the Emerald

The ASUO Child Care Task Force held its first public meeting on Monday, upholding ASUO Executive's promise of making child care a high student government priority.

The purpose of Monday night's meeting was not only to begin fulfilling an Incidental Fee Committee budget note requirement on money allocated to subsidize child care costs, but to explore the need for child care at the University in order to make improvements in the system.

The task force plans to present its findings to the Oregon Student Lobby.

"The average age of the student being 27 on this campus, we know how important child care is to the parents and how important it is to retention of students on the campus, so we are going to try to do all we can to strengthen child care," said Steve Nelson, ASUO president.

"The purpose of us bringing the task force together is to try and go through, and then make an evaluation of the child care facilities we do have that we spend incidental fees on in the hopes of making improvements and expansions," he said.

In the report, the task force will describe and evaluate the existing University child care facilities, as well as identify strengths and weaknesses and recommend solutions.

The IFC requires the report in order to release \$30,000 in child care subsidies for low income student/parent. The money is being held by a budget note. The report is due to the IFC by

Jan. 31, 1987.

"The parents can use the money not only at University day-care centers, but at any other centers in the area," said Susan Sowards, ASUO Executive coordinator.

The IFC had questions about child care that were not answered last year so it put a budget note on the subsidies and requested the ASUO to form a task force and answer those questions, said James Randall, IFC member.

"The fee committee can really only force issues by putting a budget note saying something shall happen before a certain date" or funding will be frozen, Randall said.

The OS� is drafting a child care bill, which will be written between the end of January and Feb. 15, Nelson said.

"We will take the data that we will have and turn it over to the Oregon Student Lobby, and this will be a part of what is going to be in the bill," Nelson said.

One weakness with University child care is there hasn't been a unified voice advocating the needs of parents or children, said James Munyen, committee chairman for Westmoreland tenant's day care council.

Parents need to be seen as a cohesive group, although it is difficult to find the time to organize, he said.

"There has been a big reluctance by the University administration to acknowledge this whole demographic group we are talking about, and the result is so little is known of

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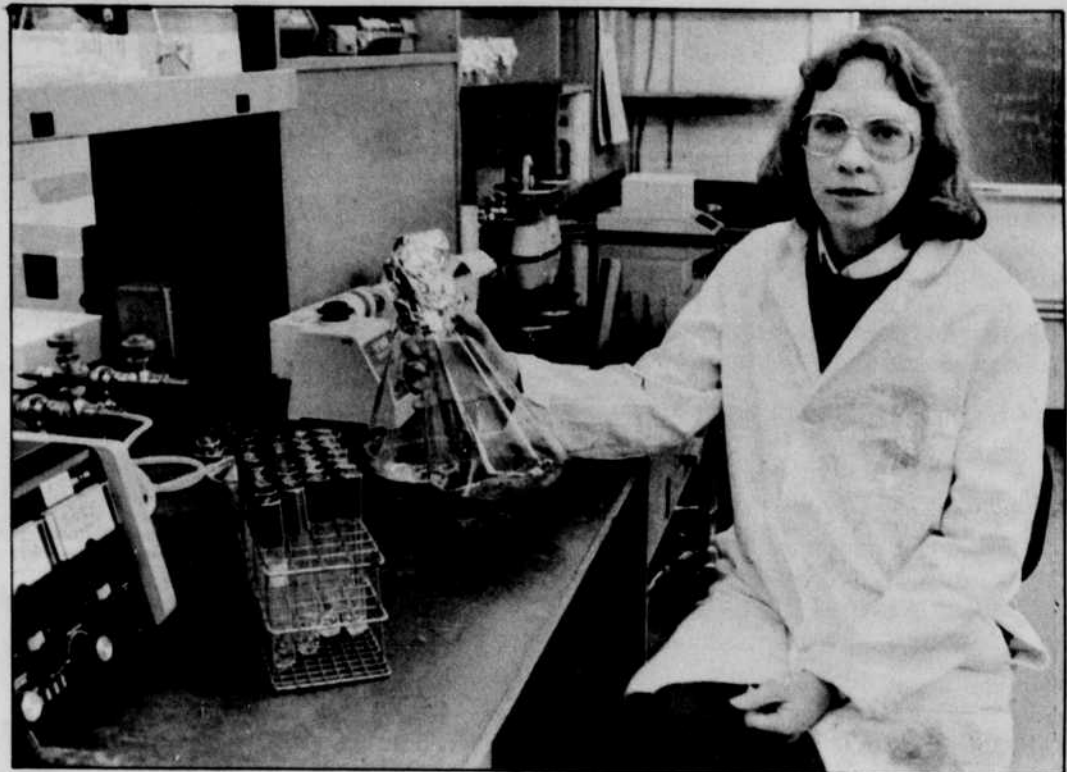


Photo by John Giustina

Upon receiving one of 200 1987 Presidential Young Investigator awards, assistant chemistry Professor Diane Hawley "went out and bought some more equipment," she said.

Professor earns award for biochemical research

By Stan Nelson
Of the Emerald

Assistant chemistry Professor Diane Hawley's laboratory and office are hardly distinguishable from the many others that occupy Science I. Yet the biochemical research produced and continued in the Diane Hawley lab has been nationally recognized.

The National Science Foundation recognized Hawley's work by awarding her a 1987 Presidential Young Investigator Award, one of only 200 awarded in the nation to outstanding young scientists and engineers in the nation.

The NSF established the awards three years ago to recognize outstanding young scientists within five years of receiving their

doctoral degrees and to help them establish their academic research.

Downplaying the recognition of the award, Hawley said she was pleased her research received recognition but was quick to acknowledge her fellow colleague's University research.

"I was relieved because when one is starting to do laboratory work and set up, the problem is a lay time between the time you start and the funding starts. I've written some grants but I am still waiting to hear whether they will be funded," she said.

The NSF will provide Hawley with a base

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Clients Council educates poor on rights

By Carolyn Lamberson
Of the Emerald

The Clients Council is an organization designed to inform the poor people of Lane County of their rights concerning welfare, food stamp and other federal assistance policies, said Suzan Stern, the group's coordinator.

Clients Council was established in 1975 as a division of the county Legal Aid program, Stern explained. There are 10 active volunteers on staff who do everything from answering phones to doing lay-out on the Clients Council News, she said.

The Clients Council News is a 16-page newspaper distributed throughout the state. It features articles on low-income bills being discussed in the Legislature, schedules of health clinics, updates on welfare policy and other items of in-

terest to low-income people, she said.

One of the main jobs of Clients Council is to take phone calls from people having a hard time understanding the welfare and food stamp systems, Stern said.

"We keep the welfare manuals here in the office. Each phone advocate, the volunteers who answer questions, are provided with what we call the advocacy manual," she said. "This manual is essentially the welfare manual in brief.

"People who feel they are getting the run-around from the welfare office, or if some policy is unclear, or if they can't get ahold of their own social worker, can call us, and hopefully one of the phone advocates can help," Stern said.

Jennifer Edwards has been an phone advocate for the Clients

Council for almost a year. She is on welfare, and said she enjoys being able to help people who are having the same problems she has had in the past.

"It's amazing how many case workers are not available when the welfare clients call but are in when I call," she said. "We try to teach people who are asking for help not to be intimidated by the welfare system."

Calls for help also come from people who are having landlord/tenant problems, need money to pay either rent or utilities, are stranded and need bus fare out of town, need a place to stay, are out of food, or are going to work and don't have the proper clothes, she said.

"Generally, we try to help solve any problem that exists because of a lack of money,"

Stern said.

Aside from answering about 300 phone calls per month and putting out the newspaper, the Clients Council also has several ongoing projects, Stern said.

"We operate a welfare hotline for people on government assistance, and we hope to start an outreach and community education program on the feminization of poverty," she said.

"A majority of the poor are women. And they're not teenagers or weirdo-hippies having children all over the place either. A lot of the poor women were once married middle-class people," Stern said. "And then for some reason, they became divorced and were trying to support themselves and their children on an unrealistic amount of money."

"There are a lot of poor women in this area. With our feminization program, we're trying to get other groups to help us spread the word about this problem and help out," she said.

Clients Council also is active in lobbying on behalf of the impoverished in the state Legislature, Stern said.

"During the last legislative session, we were part of a coalition that helped to push two bills on welfare through," she said.

"We believe we are instrumental in keeping welfare and federal assistance policy humane," she said.

"Our main purpose is to help improve policy that affects the poor," Stern said.

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