

Committee studies child care need

By Paula Green
Emerald Reporter

In light of the "baby boom" of the 1980s, the recently established University Child Care Study Committee has started research in response to a perceived need for child care among University faculty and staff.

According to Tom Hager, committee member and Old Oregon editor, "child care is an important issue among faculty. The administration has been aware of our problem for a while, but this is the first official recognition of it."

The new committee will attempt to fill child care needs not provided for under current University programs where students have first priority. The current University-affiliated child care program receives partial funding from student fees.

Committee Co-chairwoman and University Internal Auditor Jane Van Order, who finds the question of faculty child care an "important community issue," currently is working to discover the precise need for faculty and staff child care, as well as options for filling the need.

Beginning with a survey to be circulated among faculty and staff in early January, the committee also will explore alternatives for providing child care, investigate the alternatives for investing specific needs, explore issues involved in on-site or closed off-campus housing, and

explore grants and funding available for the project.

Although Van Order noted the committee currently is in an "exploration phase," she stressed the importance of the situation in that "child care can affect the productivity of an office."

Another area the committee hopes to explore is the possibility of research in early childhood development with the University Research Center.

Teacher Education Professor and Committee Co-chairwoman Nora Cohen said she "would love to have the possibility of a good place to do research."

"I'm really concerned about the beginnings, because a child's future is tied into their first years of life," Cohen explained, adding, "We need child care that optimizes a child's development."

Cohen is studying the natural concerns and interests of children, and "would like to see nursery, preschool and child programs that facilitate the processes of growth and development."

Cohen noted the committee has been collecting data from around the country to use in preparation for the development of both a child care and research center. Cohen has found the cost of funding to be the largest obstacle to the project.

"There are large costs involved in appropriate staffing. When you're dealing with very small children, there is a need

for a reasonable ratio of baby-to-caretaker," Cohen said.

Hager, Van Order and Cohen all recognized the committee has been formed out of the new awareness of a nationwide trend of working mothers.

"It's been happening all around us, but we just haven't been aware of what's going on," Cohen said.

"We're going to tie this in with the new 'baby boom' thing," Hager added.

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8:00 p.m. - "TV HALL OF FAME"

TUESDAY - Dec. 1st
6:30 p.m. - Matchmaker with Dave Hull
7:00 p.m. - You Can't Take It With You Comedy
7:30 p.m. - Cinematrax: Reviews of latest box office attractions
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7:30 p.m. - D.C. Follies - Comedy
8:00 p.m. - **CINEMA 25 Wednesday Night Movie**
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THURSDAY - Dec. 3rd
6:30 p.m. - Matchmaker with Dave Hull
7:00 p.m. - Ghost Stories - Tales of the Supernatural
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