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PROGRAM

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ments."

Some of the comments may have been inappropriate, Childers wrote, but were legitimate. Hill's letter also contended that relevant information was overlooked or improperly evaluated.

Childers responded that in "several minor instances these allegations can be substantiated, but in the final analyses each of the four major sections of the application had substantial deficiencies," such as inadequate documentation and lack of information in some areas. Questions were also raised about the qualifications of the Upward Bound staff, the design of the program and the justification for the budget.

Although Childers admits that "some readers are more rigorous in their reviews than others ... this is beyond our control."

Brand responded to the letter Wednesday by saying he was disappointed but that the University would "continue to seek every way possible to help young Oregonians from low-income families attain the substantial, life-long advantages of a college degree."

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ABUSE

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an estimated 75 percent. When it is completed in 1993, it will offer classrooms, counseling rooms, a kitchen, professional training facilities and indoor and outdoor play areas.

After it officially opens its

After it officially opens its doors, the facility will likely be flooded by the growing number of abusive families in Lane County seeking help.

County seeking help.

The Children Services Division office in Lane County is scrambling to keep up with the 3,397 calls for assistance it has received this year. That is a 21 percent jump in calls from this time last year.

Mike Lutz, who supervises incoming requests for CSD assistance, said the increase in demand for services has forced the agency to put some cases to the side until its strained resources can catch up.

"We're barely holding body and soul together," Lutz said. "It's like a battle zone, and we're doing triage everyday. We're making decisions about which cases of abuse can wait until the next day."

CSD uses "intake screeners" to sift through the requests for service. If the situation appears to be at a crisis point, social workers will try to intervene immediately. In more serious cases, CSD joins forces with police to insure the child's safety.

Lane County Sheriff Bob Mc-Manus said police often get the overflow when social service agencies cannot get to all the

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cases.

"This is the bottom of the bucket where everything collects," McManus said. "The police departments are the dumping grounds for the rest of those cases."

McManus, who also sits on the Relief Nursery's board of directors, said police departments are stuck in the role of reacting to child abuse after the fact. Scarce resources limit the ability of law enforcement agencies to get out on the front end of the problem with prevention programs.

"The pro-active role of the sheriff's department went out years ago," McManus said. "Right now, we're lucky if we can field three officers in one

With few officers available to investigate cases, the Lane County Sheriff's Department also must do triage work.

"With only five detectives," McManus said, "it puts us in the precarious position of deciding which cases we should handle."

Every month the sheriff's department gets about 90 case referrals from CSD. Many are not investigated.

"We maybe give 20 to patrol officers and detectives," Mc-Manus said. "With the other 70, the perpetrators get away with it, so they'll be back."

The story is much the same with the Eugene Public Safety Department's Violent Crimes Unit, which investigates crimes ranging from sexual assaults to homicides.

Sgt. Rick Gilliam, unit supervisor, said that child abuse cases now account for almost 80 percent of the unit's workload. His department has adopted the triage approach.

"We focus primarily on serious injury cases," Gilliam said.
"We often get referrals where the child is being slapped, and normally they aren't being looked into."

Gilliam said the problem must be addressed by the entire community.

"You just don't hear much about it," he said. "There's not much of an outcry from the public. The public has to be more concerned and take more of a role in the solution."

Generating community awareness is one of the goals of the new Relief Nursery facility.

Phelps said having all of the agency's services under one, highly visible roof will bring child abuse into the public eye.

child abuse into the public eye.
"With this facility, child abuse prevention will become visible," she said. "It says that this is one of the places where we prevent child abuse."

A fundraising campaign has raised \$700,000 from gifts, grants and individual pledges. An additional \$500,000 still must be raised.

