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Fir Room, EMU
8 p.m. - Midnight

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UNIVERSITY

Women's advocate starts job

By Edward Klopfenstein
Oregon Daily Emerald

The University has few support services for non-traditional students, said the new women's advocate for the Women's Center, a problem she hopes to help change.



Michelle Parks

Michelle Parks, who reported for work Monday, said she wants to work toward building a network for older students or students with children.

Parks is the Women's Center's first advocate for women and was hired in an attempt to better meet the basic needs of women at the University.

"The University needs to understand that women do have children and thus need more support," Parks said. "The problem with that is you will not always make it to that test. You will sometimes have to miss a day or two of class because your child has the chicken pox and can't go to school. And there are no day-care programs I know of that would take your child."

The advocate said she also is interested in changing the guidelines for federal financial aid.

"Students come to the University to be successful," she said. "Getting Cs is not successful, and single mothers can't get As and Bs by taking 12 credits."

Single mothers should have the flexibility to take fewer credits and still be eligible for aid, Parks said.

"This is a big fight, but somebody has to start it at least," she said.

Parks, 26, is a single parent living in Amazon Family Housing with her two children, an eight-year-old boy and a six-year-old girl.

Coming from the University of Alaska, Anchorage last year, the political science senior transferred to the University because she was interest-

ed in the University's law school. She said she will be applying for entrance next fall.

Parks was very active in Anchorage, involving herself in everything from student government to working on a human rights task force in the police department. She said she researched the relationship between women of color and the police.

The Women's Center is currently being revised by the ASUO's Women Center Restructuring Committee. Parks said the committee is reviewing the implementation of all of the center's services, including how many people should be working in the center's office.

The ASUO hired Parks as a three-month temporary employee until the committee finishes its revisions on the center. That is expected at the end of the term.

According to the ASUO, classified staff also was hired for the first time to provide secretarial support for the office. The center previously had work-study students filling that role.

The Women's Center does not currently have a coordinator position. The last to hold that position was Hasani Kudura, whose contract ended in August and was not renewed by the ASUO.

Parks said the committee will be deciding if there will be a coordinator position in the future.

Having an advocate and secretary to provide referral services, supported by work-study staff, would create the minimum level of service until restructuring is completed, according to the ASUO.

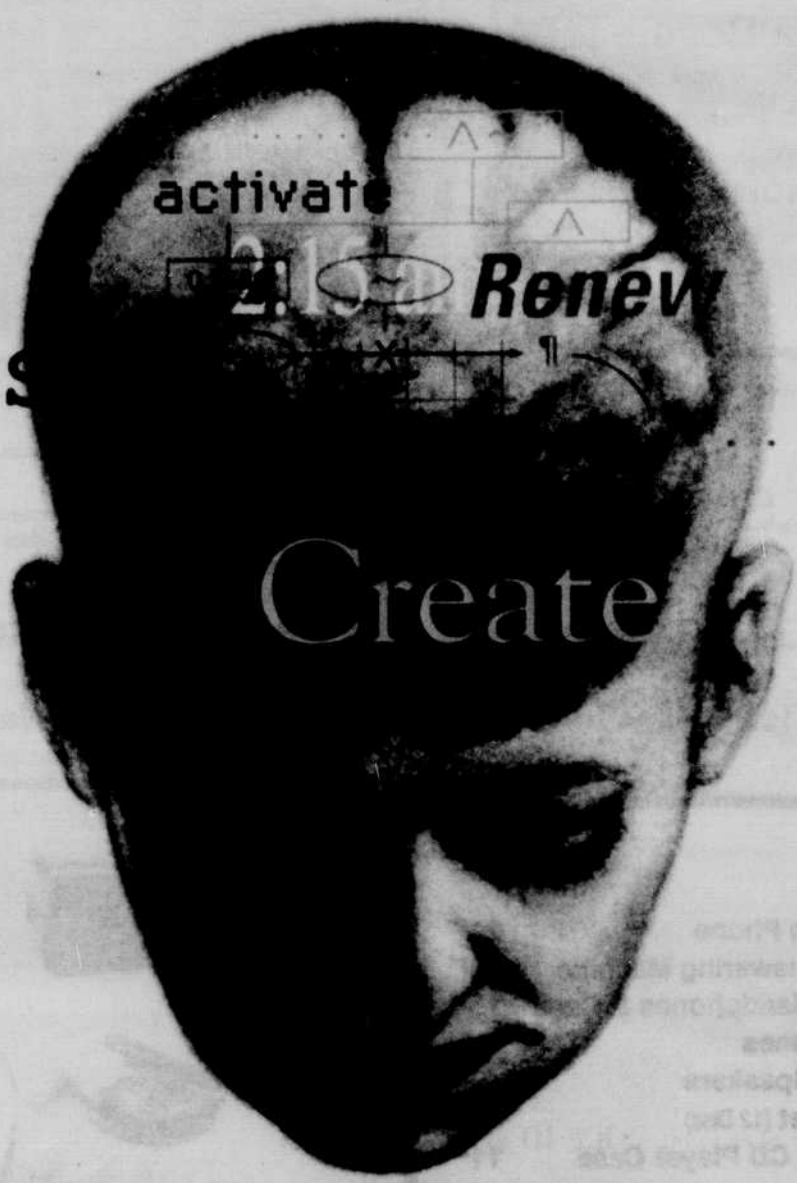
Other services Parks hopes to expand include support for the University's lesbian, gay and bisexual community.

As advocate, Parks will work on behalf of students and their issues, which include sexual harassment, she said.

Parks said she hopes to see programs developed to help empower women.

The Women's Center, located in the basement of the EMU in Room 3, is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Information Session
Tuesday, October 12, 1993 from 6:30-8:30pm
EMU Cedar A & B

Campus Recruiting - Undergrad & MBA Schedules
Friday, November 12, 1993

Undergrad schedule:
Deadline to submit paperwork for preselection - October 15, 1993 by 1:00pm.
See Career Planning & Placement Services for **required paperwork** information. Submit paperwork to 244 Hendricks Hall, Career Planning & Placement Services.
Bidding starts October 25, 1993.

MBA schedule:
See Graduate School of Management Career Services for details.

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