

UNIVERSITY UPDATE

• "Gender, Politics and Ritual among the Balkan Gypsies" will be the topic of a lecture given by anthropology associate professor Carol Silverman Wednesday at noon. The lecture will be in Room 360 Condon and is sponsored by the Women's Faculty Seminar Series.

• The Concerto Competition Concert, a student soloist presentation sponsored by the University Symphony, will take place Wednesday. Student admission to the Beall Concert Hall event at 8 p.m. is \$2.

• All T-shirts and books in the Museum of Natural History store will be 20 percent off Wednesday through Sunday. The store is open from

noon to 5 p.m.

• The University Women's Chorus and the Men's Chorus will perform at 8 p.m. in Beall Concert Hall Thursday. The event is free.

• *Red Flag*, a play written by University graduate student Theresa Mason, will continue on Friday and Saturday in the Robinson Theatre. • A workshop for developmental support staff will take place Friday, and will cover "how-to" information about proposal preparation, budget development and pre- and post-award audits. It will run from 9 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. in the EMU Gumwood Room and is free. For more information, call 346-5131.

CHILDREN

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ate student in art painted murals throughout the center. Each hour a parent spends working at the co-op reduces his or her bill by \$25.

Because 85 percent of the parents are single and many are classified as low-income or students, working to reduce the bill is an important option for many parents. Amazon Co-op gives parents a chance to reduce child care costs.

Working to decrease day care tuition is just one reason parents co-op at the day care center.

"Kids love it that their parents are here," said Alisa Stull, who used to co-op at the center and is now a teacher there.

At the Amazon Family Center, parents are encouraged to have a more active role in their child's care by participating in a parent advisory board and regular meetings for the parents.

"We maintain that parents are the primary educators of their children," Blanchard said.

The children are given a variety of choices of activities. Arts and crafts materials are open to them at almost any time. Funds for art supplies often come from the Incidental Fee Committee and other

grants allow for the co-op's high quality and affordability.

"Art and play are both important for children this age," Blanchard said.

During free time they gather on the playground and sometimes even have water fights.

The center has a picnic in the spring and "carols" in the winter, including songs from a wide variety of regions and religious faiths. The older children swim and roller skate every week.

Blanchard said because they serve a vegetarian menu and are subsidized by the USDA low-income families they serve, the Amazon co-op is able to provide children with good meals that are not of the usual cafeteria fare. One meal includes Belgian waffles with whipped cream.

The day care takes care of children ages eight weeks to 10 years and hopes to receive a grant to begin a program for teens, Blanchard said. The teen program might include internships with businesses around the city and "mentor" opportunities with University students.

Blanchard said the Family Center hopes to encourage University students to volunteer to become mentors to teen-agers and to teach them about what they're studying and about campus life.

Office of Multicultural Affairs honors students of color

By Laurel Bossi
For the Oregon Daily Emerald

The University's Office of Multicultural Affairs acknowledged the work and efforts of 29 students and two faculty members at its annual Students of Color Awards and Graduation ceremony May 13.

Two students recognized at the ceremony, seniors Leyla Farah and Leslie Warren, were recipients of two \$500 Bell awards. The awards, established to reward students of color who have made "outstanding contributions to the University through their dedication, hard work, academic excellence and leadership," were presented in honor of the late Jewel Hairston Bell.

Bell was the director of the OMA — formerly known as the Council for Minority Education — between 1983 and 1986. Before her death in 1990, she was working as director of the Tufts University

African American Center.

Farah, a psychology major, said she was surprised to receive a letter announcing she had won the award. She had no idea she was on the list of nominees submitted to the OMA by University faculty, she said.

"I was completely floored," said Farah, whose family came down from the Portland area to attend the ceremony.

Farah will study law at the University of California at Berkeley in the fall and said she hopes one day to find a job at the American Civil Liberties Union, where she would like to specialize in gay and lesbian civil rights.

Farah said she remains hopeful of advances in cultural and ethnic diversity on campus, but recognizes that such things do not come overnight.

"I don't know if 'hard' is the right word," she said of her experiences, "but

it's a process."

Allison Brossia, who received one of the faculty awards, agreed with Farah. Brossia works as an admissions counselor and was one of two faculty members to be acknowledged by the OMA this year.

"I don't see myself as a token at all," Brossia said, but then described "a kind of impatience" for greater awareness and diversity to develop.

"It would be nice if we had an ethnic studies department, but that's on the wish list," she said. "I think everyone has a responsibility, regardless of your color, to recognize the contributions of all groups to our society."

Brossia said she does have the opportunity to join in the process of recruiting students of color while working in the admissions office. But she worries that the percentage of students of color on campus may go down in the future if

tuition continues to increase. She said tuition hikes may make it hard for students of color in some communities to be able to afford a university education.

Nevertheless, the admissions office works closely with the OMA. Brossia said she believes the OMA has made a serious attempt to ensure that its staff represents as many ethnic groups as possible. This, she said, also benefits students who come to the OMA's academic advising to discuss transitions they undergo during their first year at the University. She believes students may need to speak to someone with a background similar to their own, to someone who can directly relate to them and their concerns, she said.

Brossia said she is pleased with the efforts of the OMA to encourage and recognize the University's students of color and hopes that in the future more can be done to further enhance their University experience.

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