

CHILDREN

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the 1994-95 year.

For these non-traditional students, sacrifice becomes a common reality. Many parents said sleep, grades, personal time and outside commitments are the first luxuries to go to the wayside when having a child.

Valerie Lewis, a single mom of a five-year-old girl named Alizaire, said she rises everyday at 5 a.m. to begin studying. In the evenings Lewis resumes studying after her daughter is asleep, somewhere around 9 p.m.

Lewis said Alizaire understands it is important her mom has time to study. She illustrates the concept by referring to school as her job.

"This is my job to go to school so that I can afford to buy a house with a yard," Lewis said she tells her daughter. "If mommy doesn't get a chance to study for a test, I might lose my job."

Lewis, like many parents, said her daughter is her motivation to push herself through college.

Like many parents, meeting her daughter's needs became more of a priority than meeting her own needs. Last term Alizaire's first dance recital ever was scheduled for the same time as Valerie's math final. Lewis skipped the final and received an incomplete. She has to take the final sometime during this term before she can get credit for the class.

Likewise, Laurie deKoch, the mother of three-year-old Willem, said she has had to be late to class or not get an assignment done on time, because her son needs her attention.

"When you have a child everything changes," deKoch said.

"You have this incredible responsibility. You're not free to act as spontaneous as you would like to," she said.

Even something as routine as going to the movies takes planning nowadays, she said. But deKoch has learned to become a super organizer. Almost everything has to be scheduled and crossed off a list.

Audre Bonadea, the mother of four-year-old Jade and 17-year-old Layla, said she is often hard to find and has to run around to get things completed.

"My children get neglected around finals; there's nothing you can do," Bonadea said. She spoke during an orientation for new law students last fall and recommended all single parents either get their kids out of the house or get someone to move in with them during finals week.

A support system of friends and family is crucial for student parents. Moyer said when things in her life get in a crunch, she relies on her mother and her friends to take Hayden for the day.

"If I didn't have people that helped me, I wouldn't be able to do it," Moyer said. She lives in Amazon family housing and said the community provides a network of supportive parents.

Moyer said she has cut back on the number of cups of coffee she buys every morning. This has enabled her to have more money to do fun things with Hayden, like visiting friends.

Making ends meet is a constant worry for student parents on a lean budget. Financial aid can add the additional costs of child care to a student parent's yearly budgeted costs, but it can't account for the increase in living



Nyle Weldon peeks over the tire during recess at the Moss House. The Moss House daycare is for many kids whose parents are students, teachers, and faculty at the University of Oregon.

NATALIE MONTGOMERY/Emerald

expenses.

"We're not allowed by law to include living expenses for anyone other than the student," said Jim Gilmour, associate director of financial aid.

During 1991-92, \$33.2 million in financial aid was dispersed to University students. During 1994-95, \$51.2 million was dispersed to students and the majority of the increase was in loans.

"The fact is their cost of education will be higher and the only way we can meet their increased cost of education is loans," said

Ed Vignoul, director of financial aid.

An ASUO Child Care Subsidy Program also exists, which can cover 10 to 50 percent of a student parent's on or off-campus child care costs. The money is provided by student incidental fees but the program has a ceiling of 210 families, said Dennis Reynolds, coordinator of the EMU child care centers.

"We've known all along that we're not meeting all the people with need," said Reynolds. He said there are at least 400 fami-

lies eligible for the subsidy who receive no ASUO subsidy monies.

"If you can't give students the help they really need to make being here affordable, then all we're doing is giving them a short stay here," Reynolds said.

Parents must reapply for the subsidy money each year. Reynolds said the monies are offered on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Reynolds said he believes helping student parents benefits the economy.

FUTON

SOFA BY DAY BED BY NIGHT



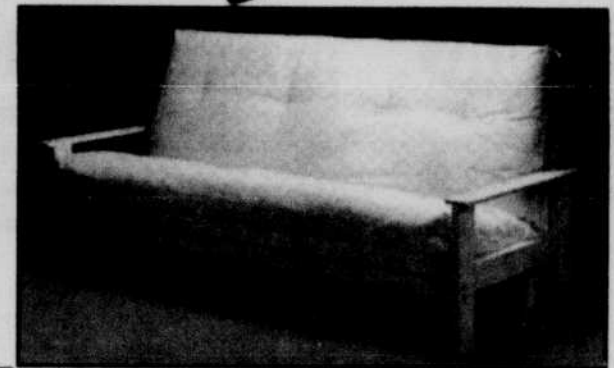
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