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Senate approves childcare room

By Kristina Rudinkas
Student Activities Reporter

The Student Senate renewed its commitment to fund affordable student-parent child care and the Amazon Co-op's "wobbler" room. The Senate approved \$14,000 to help fund more work-study employees at the Amazon Co-op and \$16,300 from the Overrealized Fund to renovate a teachers lounge into a space for toddlers.

Khela Singer-Adam has a daughter, Miete, who needs a spot in the toddler room. She spoke with several Amazon representatives at the meeting.

The co-op only has spots for about 100 children and already has approximately 80 on a waiting list. Singer-Adam took Miete to class for nine months before she

was able to secure a spot in the student day care program. Now Miete, who crawled around the EMU Board Room, is in between the infant and toddler stage.

"The 'wobbler' would be perfect for her," Singer-Adam explained. "She is climbing the walls in the infant room. She would be learning and growing, but safe." Several student senators who are also parents expressed their support for funding child care.

"It gives student-parents the opportunity to go to school when no one else is giving them the opportunity," said ASUO Vice President Ben Unger. "The incidental fee allows so many different people to go to school here."

The Student Senate also denied a request for \$3,500 by representa-

tives of the Oregon Grind. The money was to help pay for the Grind's deficit from last year and help fund future programming.

The Senate approved \$7,800 to help finance the Labor, Race and Economic Justice Task Force's conference on April 3 and 4.

"This is superduper," Unger said. "I don't think you should amend it, but fund it 8k [\$8,000] because that's what it deserves."

Sen. Jenna Wasson asked Unger how much money the ASUO has contributed to the conference. Unger said none so far, but he promised the ASUO would give \$200 to the conference.

"The money will be put to a lot better use than with other conferences," said Senate Vice President Kent Black.

U.S. downplays nuclear weapons

By John Diamond
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Shifting its rhetoric, if not its policy, the Clinton administration is taking a much firmer public stand against using nuclear weapons on Iraq.

Although the administration concedes no policy change, a clear adjustment in language is emerging in response to concerns raised in Moscow, in the Middle East and in this country following pointedly ambiguous statements by Clinton administration officials on the subject.

The use of nuclear weapons as part of punitive air strikes against Iraq seemed farfetched initially but gained plausibility as weapons experts talked about the possible need for heat-producing

bombs to destroy Iraqi chemical and biological weapons stocks.

Then, in late January, Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon declined to exclude nuclear weapons from the U.S. options should Iraq attack U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf with chemical or biological weapons.

"I don't think we've ruled anything in or out in this regard," Bacon said.

These signals, and the international attention they generated, helped spark angry statements from Russian President Boris Yeltsin, including his assertion that the U.S. risked starting a world war by attacking Iraq.

Alarmed arms control advocates wrote letters of concern to

top administration officials. In Baghdad, citizens approached Western reporters to ask whether they were in danger of being blown up in a nuclear attack. Newspaper columnists in Arab countries friendly toward the United States also raised the concern.

In response, the Clinton administration has sought to remove the ambiguity from its statements.

"We have no plans, no planning, no intention, no policy of using nuclear weapons pre-emptively to go after, take out, whatever you want to call it, the weapons of mass destruction storage or production facilities," Robert Bell, a senior national security adviser to President Clinton, said Wednesday.

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