

Advocates

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tion," said Kathleen Workman, the ASUO Non-traditional Student Advocate and student-parent.

Student-parents argue that quality child care is expensive in Lane County and often exceeds rent bills.

"The average student doesn't understand the cost of having a child and going to school. My child care bill is more than my grocery bill," Workman told legislators.

Representative Vicki Walker is a strong advocate of the Child Care Block Grant because she reaped the benefits of federal funding when she attended school. "I am very supportive of need-based funding and funding for child care," Walker said.

Going into this year's Legislature, the Child Care Block Grant is a part of Governor Kitzhaber's proposed budget.

Workman said the waiting list to receive funding for child care fluctuates between 700 and 900 peo-

ple a year. With the proposed budget, the waiting list would be cut down about half.

The advocates of the grant and the students it benefits, which have been long ignored by the legislature, hope to turn heads this year showing that the average GPA for a student-parent is 3.6.

Representative Walker said, "It is hard to convince fellow representatives that this funding is important because of the low percentage of students that vote." Walker, along with Senator Susan

Castillo and Phil Barnhart, who is seeking election into the House of Representatives, voiced their concerns of the low percentage of student voters.

Jay Breslow, ASUO president, assured legislators that his administration would take giant strides to encourage student voting. According to Breslow, the voice of the students needs to ring throughout the legislature to gain the support of legislators on bills such as the Child Block Grant.

Workman is concerned that most

of the student-parents won't see the State funding for child care until after graduation. Currently, the federal government has allocated \$5 million to assist student-parents, though Oregon Higher Education only sees \$52,000 of the funds allocated on the federal level.

The Oregon Child Care Block Grant would help play a important role in shaping Oregon's economic future. "Work needs to be done, and everyone has to jump on board and work," said Sen. Castillo.

Child-care

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For Amanda Stout, two generations of University child care have brought great changes along with a continued and powerful commitment to students' families.

During the 1970s, Stout was a toddler growing up in Eugene. Stout's mother was a full-time student, pursuing her degree in education while raising her daughter. Now, 20 years later, Stout is raising her own daughter, Anatonina. Stout, like her mother before her, is a full-time student, halfway toward her degree in biology.

The program began in 1970 after several months of student-powered political activity, culminating with protests in the administration building.

In fall 1969, students occupied the president's office in Johnson Hall until the administration agreed to support child-care services on campus. A committee was formed, which later that year recommended the funding of on-campus facilities. In the summer of 1970, the child-care program began at the on-campus Moss House facility.

Dennis Reynolds, EMU Child Care Coordinator, was a student

during those times and now heads up the program he has been with since its inception.

"Students have made a commitment to child care from its beginning," Reynolds said. "Through their incidental fees, every student continues to make their contribution to this program."

Since then, the program has continued to grow, adding facilities for preschoolers, kindergarten students and the children of University employees.

Stout is part of the CCDC's growing history. She guides her daughter through the program she finished more than 20 years ago.

"I would ride on the back of my mom's bicycle to the center," she said. "It was so much fun and a great overall experience."

Because of the financial resources offered through the program, her mother was able to finish college, while Stout received fundamental nurturing through the CCDC.

When the EMU Child Care program began, it was financed primarily through federal funds. However, the ASUO Child Care subsidy, funded entirely through student fee dollars, now pays up to 45 percent of child care costs for nearly 200 students.

Federally funded grants, which

just took effect this year, pay 75 percent of the costs for 15 students.

"In the 1980s, we saw a drastic shift in the way our program was funded," Reynolds said. "The federal funding just disappeared, and students were left to carry the burden."

Stout relies on the Federal Need Grant, Pell Grant and the ASUO Child Care Subsidy to help cover her costs.

"I wouldn't be able to go to school and raise a child without the support of student funding," Stout said.

With adequate funding, accessible facilities and a dedicated staff, Stout and her daughter are very happy with the program they have both been a part of.

Between fall the study groups, test preparation and day-to-day worries, student-parents manage to get it done. Stout maintains a high GPA, which she'll need when applying for graduate school.

Back in the ASUO, students are hard at work, ensuring that quality child care at the University will not only continue but prosper. Kathleen Workman, ASUO Non-Traditional Student Advocate, spends much of her time working on behalf of student-parents at the University.



Azle Malinao-Alvarez Emerald

Student-parents must juggle academic responsibilities with raising their children.

"The staff of the child-care program is very energetic and educated," Workman said. "I'm proud of the work they do."

Workman sits on the Child Care Family Support Committee, which meets every month, preparing recommendations to University President Dave Frohnmayer on student parent issues. Issues they're working on include renovations to child-care facilities, additional changing rooms and a new effort to collect data on student-parent families.

Workman feels the benefits of

quality child care are worth the costs.

"Educated parents raise educated children," Workman said. "The long-term benefits greatly outweigh the short-term expenses."

At the end of the day, the Stouts have put in an exhausting day of work. Knowing Anatonina is getting the valuable enrichment necessary for a growing child helps give them the energy to persevere and succeed.

"This is a really wonderful community," Stout said. "I feel great

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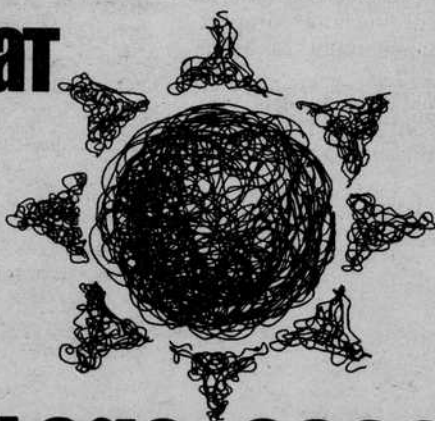
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