

Co-op Family Center begins 'RFP' process

■ The bidding is set to begin for groups looking to provide child care services on campus

By Lisa Toth
Oregon Daily Emerald

As contract negotiations with large ASUO programs get under way spring term, the Co-op Family Center could face opposition from similar providers wanting to fill the center's current role on campus.

No groups have yet come forward to try to be the new child care provider, but the Co-op Family Center, with the help of the ASUO, is currently in the preliminary stages of the complex "Request For Proposal" process.

ASUO Accounting Coordinator Jennifer Creighton said a RFP process means the Co-op Family Center, or possibly another child care provider, must have a contract agreeing to tailor its services to the ASUO's requests and show how it will meet those requests.

Other organizations, such as Lane Transit District, are termed "Sole Providers" and do not have to go through the RFP process because they are the only provider of a specific service in Eugene.

Creighton said the Office of Business Affairs and Contract Office will help the ASUO advertise about the bid competition for the contract.

The advertising will explain that the contract is open to those groups locally that provide child care services similar to those the Co-op Family Center provides.

But Creighton said the details of the RFP process for the Co-op Family Center are still in the very early stages. She said ASUO President Jay Breslow sent the Co-op Family Center a letter last week explaining that by entering the RFP process, no communication should take place between the ASUO and the groups involved who are the bidding for the contract, including the Co-op Family Center.

But Creighton said the ASUO can still maintain contact with groups about necessary current issues that could arise such as student payroll problems.

"We will know a lot more details in a couple weeks after we meet," Creighton said.

Creighton said the RFP will be developed by the ASUO on March 16 and will eventually be sent to the State Attorney General's office. All contracting parties are required to have signed their contracts by the July 1 deadline, and University Vice

President Dan Williams will be involved in the process as the contracting officer from the University.

Alisa Stull, acting co-director for the Co-op Family Center in Spencer View Family Housing, said she is nervous about the whole contract process. But she also said the group's autonomy on campus for the past 20 years will be a major advantage for the group.

"We felt that going for the contract was best for the Co-op," Stull said. "We are comfortable with the fact that we have been here a long time and provide an invaluable service."

Creighton said the Co-op Family Center received a funding increase of \$53,980 for the 2001-02 school year from the Programs Finance Committee. The center needs a formal agreement with the University and the ASUO defining the services it provides because it receives ASUO funding from student incidental fees.

Tami Brown, acting co-director for the Co-op Family Center, said while the ASUO writes the RFP for the center, members of the center are not allowed to participate in the proceedings because it is an open bidding process and other child care groups can also compete for the contract.

"We hope it is written in a way that



Laura Smit Emerald

Six-year-old Withney (left) and her classmates listen as their teacher reads a story after lunch at the Co-op Family Center. The center faces a budgetary uphill climb next term.

is conducive to what we are and what we provide," Brown said.

Brown said the Co-op Family Center is a non-profit group, not a University program, though they receive ASUO funding. Brown also said she hopes the center will be competing against as few other groups as possible.

She said she felt confident that the center is unique based on its extremely high parent involvement.

"We are hoping it will be an easy process, but we haven't gone through it before and we don't know," Brown said. "It's a new endeavor."

Students discover Oregon bicycle laws the hard way

■ Some students are caught off-guard for breaking bicycle laws they didn't know existed

By Darren Freeman
Oregon Daily Emerald

It was a Wednesday night, and Carla Reitan, who was riding her bike west on 13th Avenue near Hilyard Street, was about to receive a sudden, and expensive, lesson about Oregon bicycling law.

"A cop walked out from behind something and said, 'You, stop,'"

the junior music and biology major said.

Though Reitan had a red light on the front of her bicycle, the Eugene Police Department officer who stopped her issued her a ticket for insufficient lighting.

According to Oregon law, a bicyclist riding at night must ride with a white light visible for at least 500 feet at the front of a bike. At the rear of a bike, a red reflector or light must be visible for up to 600 feet.

Reitan said she was unaware of

this law, and she felt it wasn't fair for her to be ticketed for breaking a law she didn't know existed.

"They never gave me a chance to explain myself and just gave me a ticket," she said. "I make maybe \$58 per paycheck. I'm a scholarship student, and I have to make all my spending money. [The \$135 ticket] is a pretty big hit."

EPD Spokeswoman Jan Power said police regularly ticket bicyclists.

"Enforcement has been consis-

tent," she said. "It's just a matter of being at the right place at the right time, or at the wrong place at the wrong time, if you're a bicyclist."

But many bicyclists, such as Reitan, aren't even aware of the laws they break.

"When you're riding a bike out on the roadway, every law that applies to an automobile applies to a bicycle unless it's logically or physically impossible," said Peter Aguilar, an EPD officer assigned to campus.

Susan Kelley, owner of Blue

Heron Bicycles, 877 W. 13th Ave., said many of her customers report learning about bicycling laws only after being ticketed.

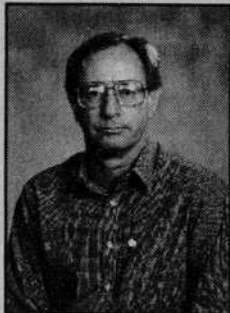
"There seems to be confusion about what is the law," she said.

For more information regarding these regulations, copies of Oregon laws are available at Blue Heron Bicycles. Also, more information about bicycle laws and safety are available on the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles Web site, www.odot.state.or.us/techserv/bikewalk/.

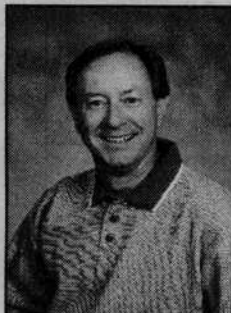
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