

Family Resource Center awaits dedication

by Tracy Hobbs
Staff Writer

October 1 will be the dedication for the Family Resource Center, but already its new tenants have moved in.

The main occupant, Camp Fire Day Care, is already running in its new facilities. The building which used to house it will be torn down next week. The center, whose maximum capacity was for 45 children, is now licensed for up to 96.

The playground and equipment will be moved adjacent to the new site. A parking lot will be built where the former site is located.

The center, which averages about 55 kids a day, is for children six weeks to six years old. However, during the summer there will be programs for 7-11 years old.

The child care center, which runs on funding from the United Way and other resources, has a sliding fee scale. The children are from the community, from students and 20 are from the Young Parent Opportunity Program (YPOP).

Besides the Mt. Hood Camp Fire program, the Family Resource

Center also houses the Life and Career Options program, YPOP and the Women's Resource Center. The Women's Resource Center is available to anyone and contains books and tapes of particular interest to women.

The Life and Career Options program was formerly called the Displaced Homemaker/Single Parent Program. The program provides pre-employment training through college credit classes. It also helps students evaluate their job skills, build confidence, develop life skills, explore career options and begin a directed job search.

YPOP is an educational program for young parents. Students are referred by local high schools. The program is an opportunity for pregnant and parenting teens to continue their education, improve their parenting skills, and prepare them for employment with the added support of child care and transportation.

Also at the Family Resource Center there will be classes on Parenting and Child Care Provider training. These programs follow the building's theme--building families for a better



photo by Tracy Hobbs

The new Family Resource Center will house a variety of programs, including Camp Fire Day Care, YPOP and Life and Career Options.

tomorrow.

In the building there are also counseling rooms available for outside agencies. Some programs to use them include the county mental health division, Adult Family Services (AFS) and Employment, Training and Business Services (ETBS).

According to Carolyn Knutson, Department Chair of Family-Human Services, the building is a partnership, in both the construction and operational aspects.

The construction was funded by a Clackamas County Block Grant and over \$60,000 in private donations from two individuals. Knutson said, "\$50,000 is designated to name the Women's Resource Center after a particular family." According to Knutson, the name will be announced after the negotiations are final.

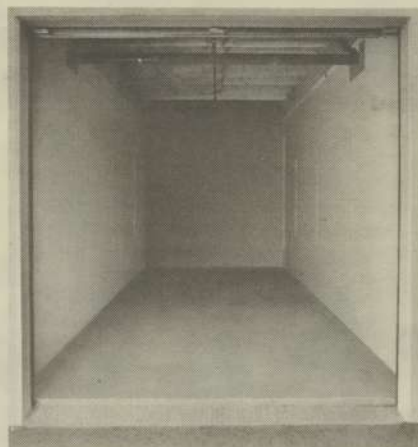
The building operates in a partnership with the Mt. Hood Council of Camp Fire, Oregon Department of Adult and Family Services, ETBS, Clackamas County High Schools, the State Department of Education and in conjunction with the College.

Knutson said the center is still

seeking new partnerships with agencies that will support the existing programs. "The combination of education and support is very important...we are part of a national movement to make families more successful," added Knutson.

Besides the child care center, all the other programs plan to be moved in by finals week. They will all be supporting the building's mission statement--the Family Resource Center provides cooperative, comprehensive, coordinated services and support for families as they enter the educational system and prepare to meet the demands of a changing work force and economy. Through the collaboration of diverse community organizations, the Family Resource Center will be able to develop more effective programs and make them more readily accessible to families.

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Poet reads work at CCC

by Allan Ziemke
Staff Writer/Photographer

Poet Marvin Bell brought his unique style of quick wit and humor into the McLoughlin Theater Thursday evening.

People were still getting seated when Bell began answering questions 30 minutes before the scheduled reading start of 7 p.m.

He began greeting people coming in by telling them, "Come on in, we're just talking, I'm the warm-up act".

Bell, born in New York City, has many poetry books to his credit. His latest is entitled, "Iris of Creation."

Bell's literary career began in grade school. He had a friend who had been given one last chance to pass an English class by writing a ten-page paper on anything. His friend was not exactly excited about the idea. Bell said he would stay up with him and help him if he would give it a try. Bell wrote poetry while his friend typed his paper. When it got late, Bell would show him a few lines to keep him awake.

Bell admits, like most poets, "My first poems were lousy." He remembers his first poem that was exposed to a large audience: "I remembered seeing an advertisement in the window that read: Money for Poems. I couldn't believe it. They would actually pay people for giving them poems!"



photo by Allen Ziemke

It was amazing. The first poem I submitted was called 'Ontology Part II,' the part two was put in so that they wouldn't think it was my first poem."

Bell is currently Flannery O'Connor Professor of Letters at the University of Iowa.