

IFC says subsidies to go to parents

By ANN PORTAL
Of the Emerald

The Incidental Fee Committee voted unanimously Tuesday night to give childcare subsidies directly to parents instead of the EMU childcare centers.

Utilizing a "voucher" system proposed by IFC chairer Jon Neiderbach, the financial aid office now will be responsible for distributing \$50,000 in childcare grants, which can be used at any local childcare center.

The committee allocated only \$18,000 to the EMU Childcare Center and the Childcare and Development Center, which received a total of \$74,000 in incidental fees last year.

The IFC's decision came in spite of the EMU Board's rejection of the plan last week.

Parents from the centers spoke for nearly two hours against the voucher system, which they say will take funds away from the University childcare centers.

But student parents will not necessarily leave the centers, said Neiderbach.

"There's no reason to believe (parents will leave) if the centers are as good as they say they are."

The EMU centers now must compete on the free market, added IFC member Jim Edmundson.

Neiderbach said a Children's Services Division survey indicated only 22 percent of University student parents use the campus day care centers.

By subsidizing the centers instead of the parents, the IFC was discriminating against parents who don't use the University centers, he said.

But parents argued they were not allowed to participate in the voucher decision and asked for more time to formulate a counterproposal.

"We don't want a proposal shoved down our throats," said EMU parent Louise Klaila.

"We just want to be heard."

However, the IFC indicated it would be willing to work with the parents on a grant distribution system. Distribution methods and deadlines will be decided later, Neiderbach said.

Childcare coordinator Mary Curtis-Gramley predicted the new system will mean tuition increases of 12 and 34 percent at the two centers.

"I don't know what will happen to the centers if the parents can't afford them," she said.

Parents also complained the IFC will lose control of childcare quality if parents take their children off-campus.

But the basic issue is funding student access to day care, not subsidizing campus childcare centers, said ASUO vice president Chris Moore.

University students win top journalism honors

Four University students won first place awards in the regional Society of Professional Journalists' Mark of Excellence Competition Saturday.

Tania Dmystyshyn won first place in radio documentary; Emerald reporter John Healy won first place in features; Emerald Managing Editor Sally Hodgkinson won first place in editorial writing; and Emerald Editorial Editor Bill Manny won

first place in spot news.

In other awards, Steve Toft won second place in radio documentary; Hodgkinson won third place in features and Byron Caloz won third place in radio documentary.

The University won the most first place awards in the contest that included entries from Oregon, Montana, Washington, Idaho and Alaska.

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PEACE CORPS

INFORMATION BOOTH:

Apr. 28-May 1
EMU Lobby, 9 am - 4 pm

FILM & SEMINAR

Apr. 29
Noon - 1:30 pm
EMU, Rm 108

INTERVIEWS:

(By Appointment)
Apr. 29-May 1
Sign up in advance at
Career Planning Office
Susan Campbell Hall

Indian tells of new spirit

Rolling Thunder began his spontaneous discourse before a packed EMU Ballroom Monday night with a story about the first time he piloted a plane and ended more than two hours later by describing a wrestling match he had with the devil.

Along the way, Rolling Thunder touched on topics ranging from his continuing search for spiritual "Thunder People" to the inevitable purification of the earth.

A Cherokee medicineman and spiritual leader, Rolling Thunder declared that Native Americans "are leading the way" toward a spiritual reawakening in the United States.

Many American Indians are "turning their backs on foreign religions, on imported devils and alcohol" and returning to the "old ways," he said.

And many whites also are experiencing a re-discovery of their spiritual natures, Rolling Thunder said.

"Anyone can be a spiritual person. No one has a monopoly on the Great Spirit's power."

"People who pursue truth are 'Thunder People,'" he said.

"Thunder means truth. We're looking for Thunder People. We've found a few, but we're not telling who they are. They're the ones that when they get together, then there's going to be some thunder."

But before the advent of the day of the Thunder People, this country will undergo a catastrophic "cleansing process," Rolling Thunder said.

Numerous volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and other natural disasters will cleanse the country of people who have abused the earth, he said.

"What we call a 'cleansing process' and Christians call the 'day of judgment' — it's here."

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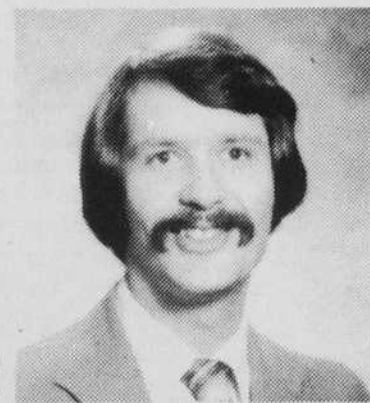
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