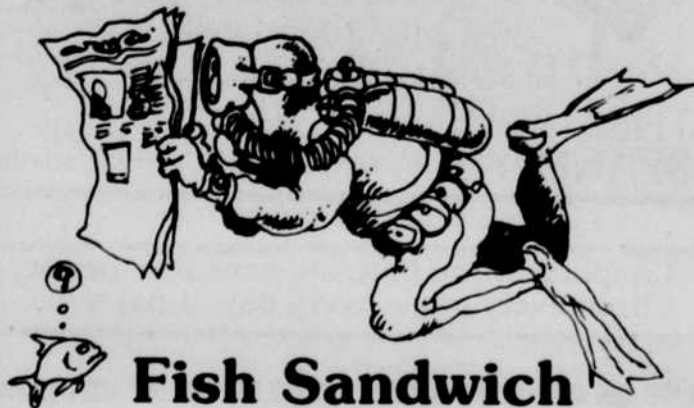


# emu

## The Search is Over



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## Care Continued from Page 1

"The only thing is, we have been waiting for weeks for the Physical Plant to come out and move the wiring so we can finish the building," Reynolds said.

Many of the materials used in the building were obtained by "scrounging," he said.

"We have a door that used to belong to Domino's Pizza, and windows and doors taken out of Emerald Hall," he said. Some of the outside fences are from the Amazon family housing area, and the wood used to build the outside play structures boast several layers of peeling paint.

The University does not give any money to the child care programs. Funding comes "out of the parents' pockets, with a little from the Incidental Fee Committee and a little from the United States Department of Agriculture for a lunch pro-

gram," Reynolds said.

The IFC does have a parent-subsidy account. But qualified parents can use this for any child care facility they choose, and the money is similar to financial aid — the child care center does not receive any direct benefit.

Maintenance problems recently faced by Reynolds and his staff include loose fences in the playground and unstable playground equipment.

Reynolds hopes to replace the roof of one non-heated indoor play area with corrugated fiberglass to make the room warmer and lighter. Several buildings also will need new roofs in the immediate future, he said.

In November, the State Child Care Division informed Reynolds that the Child Care and Development Center was breaking a state safety code by not having covered light bulbs in the Moss/Brown, and Villard/Green houses. Reynolds sent a request to the EMU to make the changes, which was then forwarded to both the Physical Plant and the housing department.

Four months later, the work has only just been completed by the Physical Plant, and the housing department still has the bulbs on order, although in recent months both departments are becoming more responsive, Reynolds said.

Mike Wieber of the ASUO Child Care Task Force takes his

child to the EMU child care center. He believes there are a lot of false perceptions about the child care program.

"A lot of people only see the EMU center, which was built a few years ago. It has new equipment, and everything looks great because money has been put into it," Wieber said. "The rest of the child care areas are funky old houses that people don't even know exist," he said.

"Some of the rooms are so dark. The teachers do go to great lengths to turn them into a positive environment, but it is hard to do," he said.

According to Marjory Ramey, director of University Housing, "There is a sharp difference between maintenance and improvements."

Improvements consist of more insulation, remodeling and adding on, she said. Maintenance is keeping the roof intact, keeping the grounds up and maintaining the plumbing, she said.

Maintenance of the buildings is adequate, she said. "When we are asked to do some maintenance, we do it immediately. We are very careful to keep our part of the maintenance up," she said.

The maintenance budget comes from the housing department's budget, which consists of dorm resident's fees and rent from Westmoreland and

Turn to Care, Page 5



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