

Child care programs inadequate; facility expansion needed

By Kara Story
Of the Emerald

As the University's population ages, there is an increasing problem among students and faculty who have children. The problem rests in the fact that there simply is not enough space for all children needing supervision.

In the past, it was considered a radical idea that campus administration would even consider addressing the problem of child care, according to Dennis Reynolds, Director of the University's Child Care Center. But Reynolds said there is increasing pressure on administration as a result of what he calls "the second wave of the women's movement."

As more women today decide to enter the work force, as well as have children, the need for child care services increases. The services offered on this campus are "grossly inadequate," said Dan Williams, Vice President of Administration.

The administration is organizing a task force to address the child care needs of parents on the faculty and staff, and another task force headed by the ASUO is looking into student options.

Bill Shank and Nora Cowen are the administration's Child Care Study Committee co-chairs. Shank said there are no available facilities on campus for faculty and staff. The only space he knows of is in the College of Education's Early Childhood Center, which is available for a small number of three to five-year-olds, and is only offered Monday through Thursday mornings.

"Not many organizations in the public sector provide day care and we'll try to see how other universities have done it and funded it," said Shank.

The Committee plans to survey the faculty/staff community beginning in September and determine how many people have children not in school

and what their specific needs are.

The next step would be to determine the needs by child's age. Younger kids need more staff, Shank said.

Child care is not seen as purely a women's issue and the Committee will include both men and women, as well as different minority representatives, said Shank.

"It's an important issue and the sooner we can get the report into the University, the sooner the University can consider it," Shank said.

"The more we can indicate there is a real need out there, the stronger our recommendations will be," Shank directs letters and phone calls on this issue to either himself or Nora Cowen.

Interested people can write Bill Shank, University Library, University of Oregon, or call 686-3096. Nora Cowen can be reached through the College of Education, University of

Oregon, 686-3405.

The bulk of campus child care options for students are provided through six EMU administered programs. The six programs each provide an average of 20 spaces for kids. That is not enough according to Reynolds, who said that 13 percent of the student population has kids, and half of those kids are under age two.

The EMU programs are limited to children aged two through six, and there are few programs available for school-age children. Reynolds recommends parents contact the Eugene Latchkey program for older children.

Infants and toddlers must

have a higher ratio of adult/child supervision and the EMU does not offer these services because the ratio requirement makes it hard to break even financially without making it too expensive for students to use, said Reynolds.

Although there are not enough spaces on campus to meet all the child care needs, Reynolds has suggestions for those parents he must turn away. But he still urges all parents to apply for space even if it is after the deadline because last year the program ended up with availability. He attributes that to the program's reputation as being impossible to get into.

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Greek system a tradition

By Will Holbert
Of the Emerald

For many it's the ticket to lifelong friendships, to social adventure and to being part of an enduring collegiate tradition.

"It's more than a bunch of big houses with funny letters on them," said one fraternity president.

It's the Greek system. At the University it includes 11 sororities, 16 fraternities, and an estimated 15 percent of the student body. Becoming a member of the Greek system, joining a house, involves a complex ritual known as rush. Rush is a highly organized, week-long membership drive designed to match prospective members — "RUSHEES" — with a house fitting their personalities, values and interests. The houses decide which rushees match their various ideals in a system of mutual selection.

Rush organizers form a committee called "rush central," and at one point rushees fill out their house choices on scantron cards to be fed into a "rush computer," aiding in the mixing and matching.

Rush week at the University falls between September 19 and 26. There will be a table for rush registration in the EMU Breezeway. Potential rushees must pay a fee, which is \$35 for sorority rush, and \$20 for fraternity rush.

A process of elimination starts during rush week when the rushee pays a brief visit to each house. This allows the

rushee to meet house members and form first impressions of each sorority or fraternity. Each rushee is asked to choose, "preference," a number of houses they consider good prospects. The rushees return to their preferred houses for parties and another chance to narrow their selections. Both rushes have four preferencing stages.

With 27 houses throwing a varied number of rush celebrations in a week's time, one imagines he or she has achieved party nirvana. But, the legendary beer bashes are no more, at least not during rush. The local Greek system instituted a dry rush in 1983, banning alcohol from the rush ritual.

Picking a house is a big decision. "Being under the influence of alcohol isn't going to facilitate that decision," said Steve Frichette, president of the SAE fraternity.

Concerns behind image also caused the move to a dry rush.

"How do you explain to a rushees' parents, that, yeah, the house got him (drunk) and he tripped and broke his leg... Do parents want him in the Greek system after that happens?" said Chris Runyard, rush chairman for the Interfraternity Council.

At the end of rush week the rushees have narrowed their preferences to three houses. Rush organizers provide the houses with lists of the preferences, the houses then compare the lists with their own

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