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Gray vigil

A student pauses on the skywalks between Gilbert Hall and the Chiles Center to gaze at the rainy view Tuesday after a weekend of bright, sunny weather.

Photo by James Marks

Student parents express concerns at child care task force hearing

By Polly Campbell
Emerald Reporter

Seven University student parents shared their concerns about the University child care system with the ASUO Child Care Task Force in a public hearing Tuesday night.

The hearing was held to gain information from the students regarding the child care issues, said Phil Nebergall, task force chairman.

The task force includes students with children, and interested students who do not have children, as well as representatives of the ASUO.

Since the first child care hearing in the 1986-87 school year the University child care facilities have been expanded and improved, said ASUO President Karen Gaffney.

"Now we want a needs estimate of where we've come, where we've been and where we are still deficient," Gaffney said.

The child care and development centers are available to children between the ages of 1 1/2 to 6, but there is a severe child care problem on both ends — the infant and the grade school age children, Gaffney said. There is also a problem with the amount of subsidy that can be given parent students to assist with child care costs, she added.

Parents who receive the subsidy are given a percentage of child care costs and a percentage based on their financial need. Subsidies can reach up to 50 percent, Gaffney said.

"What we're hearing is that they are grateful for what they are getting but they need more," Gaffney said.

"By setting up a subsidy system based on a percentage based on what you pay can be discriminatory for people who have to choose a low cost day care," said Peg Kehrer, a parent who testified at the hearing.

Sometimes parents are able to use a less expensive co-op style of day care, Kehrer said.

"The co-op is priced low because they use parent's time, but the value of time is a lot," she said.

The lack of child care available in the evening makes it difficult for parents to hear speakers, or attend events at the cultural forum, Kehrer said.

She recommended that a vacant east room off the ballroom be equipped with a sound system so that parents could hear the speaker in the ballroom while watching their children. This would prevent children from disturbing the speaker and the audience, Kehrer said.

"Too often people say that child care is a women's problem, or a child's problem instead of looking at it as a societal problem," said Janis Elliot, assistant child care coordinator for the state of Oregon.

Elliot complimented the University student leadership and the interested students for the progress made regarding child care issues on this campus.

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Peg Kehrer

'Tingle Force' tickles dormitory funny bone

By Karen Engels
Emerald Contributor

Holy graham crackers! You are now entering the Tingle of Doom. The Tingle action-adventure comic strip "Tingle Force" has gone where neither Michael Russell or Michael Frome had ever gone before.

The in-house, fourth floor comic series has been appearing on the Tingle bulletin board since fall when the dashing dynamic duo of Russell and Frome merged writing and drawing skills to produce "Tingle Force."

In "Tingle Force," dorm residents battle "pistol packing Nazi skinheads" with Grond, the plastic hammer of the underworld and with their respective superpowers to save the missing women of McClain in the first episode, "The Slave-masters of Springfield."

In "Hoodoo Voodoo," the second adventure now in progress, evil snowguys demanding snowboards terrorize a skiing community. Meanwhile, as Frome, "the farmboy," uses his telepathic powers over animals to make cows tap dance, the Tingle Mob hits the scene and "liberated female ninja acrobats" strike a blow for feminism, Russell said.

New episodes appeared fall term every few days or weeks, depending on Russell and Frome's homework load, and the whole thing simply "evolved," they said.

Frome expends the "creative effort" by developing the basic story outline and some dialogue. Russell draws the cartoon, writes dialogue and tries to throw in a new cliché each time for variety.

"And they're losing toejam!" is one of his favorites.

The comic developed such a large following that the authors copied and bound 27 booklets before spring break. They sold 23 at \$3.50 each, just above the approximate \$3.44 production cost and bought a television set with the profits, they said.

"Tingle Force: A Graphic Novel" boasts of an introduction by Tingle resident assistant Joe Spencer, guest cartoonists, and an "About the Authors" section. Nearly everyone on the fourth floor has a copy.

This isn't surprising, considering most of them are characters in the adventure series.

Spencer, the Nazi villain in the first episode, was "skeptical" at first until Russell added an editorial note to assure readers that "this is only a comic. Joe isn't really a Nazi."

Spencer is now a staunch

supporter of "Tingle Force."

"It's great," he said. "They (residents) look forward to each one. It's a good bonding force for the hall."

"This is appreciated by everyone on the floor," resident Jim Bausch said. "Mike and Mike are busy and we're glad they do it."

"I'm not even sure how it all started," Frome said. "Someone said one day, 'Hey, we could do a daily comic strip.'"

Russell cited more profound reasons.

"When they canceled 'Mark Trail,' we were crushed," he said. "We had to fill the void."

Residents in the all-male dorm who make up the cast of heroes are added periodically and are given superpowers based on accentuated characteristics. Howdy Stout transforms into Gentle Ben when angered; Greg Topf, Russell's roommate, is Grondmaster Greg, keeper of the plastic hammer of fury that decimates all; and Greg Hunton is Ginsu Greg, master of the seventeen blades.

"We're trying to work in all the characters in the hall before the end of the term," Russell said.

"Calvin and Hobbes, eat your heart out," said resident Scott Maresh, who doubles as Bass Blaster Scott in "Hoodoo Voo-

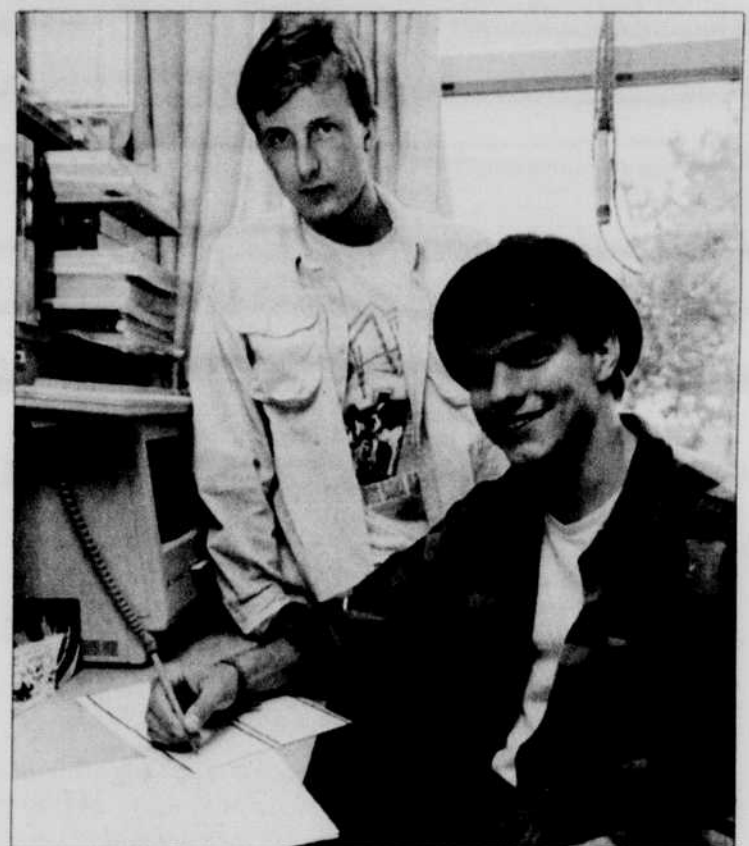


Photo by James Marks

Michael Frome, left, and Michael Russell chronicle the adventures of fourth floor "Tingle Force" in their comic series.

doo." "I feel immortalized." "Tingle Force" and start something new. Russell and Frome said they will room together next year, also in Tingle, but plan to retire

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