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Photo by Andre Ramier

A caretaker reads Maurice Sendak's *Where The Wild Things Are* to a group of enthralled listeners at the EMU Child Care Center. With the help of the Early Education Program, the Center can now temporarily offer special-needs care for children who qualify for Early Intervention Programs.

Special-needs care available on campus

By Colleen Pohlig
Emerald Reporter

The University has enacted a temporary administrative rule change that provides care for special-needs children at the EMU's Child Care and Development Center.

The University has also proposed that the temporary change, which took effect Sept. 16 and remains in place for 180 days, be adopted permanently, according to Dan Williams, vice president for administration.

The amendment reserves four spaces at CCDC's East Campus sites (the Moss, Green and Brown Houses) for special-needs children, whom the amendment defines as "those who qualify for Early Intervention services."

Early Education Program, a

private, non-profit organization in Lane County, provides services for special-needs children age three to five. This organization is a provider of Early Intervention services.

The rule change will enable employees to receive staff and training support from EEP. The center will receive a consultant from the program four hours a week in addition to a part-time aide also from EEP.

"We became a satellite so EEP can help us help these children," said Dennis Reynolds, EMU child care coordinator.

The center needed at least four special-need children in order to receive assistance from EEP, according to Reynolds.

The idea to provide care for special-needs children emerged

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Church groups denounce anti-homosexual petition

By Gerrit Koeppling
Emerald Reporter

The gay and lesbian community recently got some unexpected allies in the battle against conservatives who are trying to put an anti-homosexual rights initiative before Oregon voters in November 1992.

The Oregon Catholic Conference and the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon both came out against the initiative petition which is sponsored by the ardently conservative Oregon Citizens Alliance.

The initiative would change the state Constitution so that homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism, and masochism could not be promoted, encouraged, or facilitated by the state.

If the initiative passes, all state statutes that currently exist to protect gays and lesbians would be preempted. The initiative would also make all public schools, including the state system of higher education, assist in setting standards "that recognizes homosexuality ... as abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse and that these behaviors are to be discouraged and avoided."

To get the initiative on the ballot, 89,000 signatures need to be gathered by June 1991. But according to Philip Ramsdell, the chief petitioner and state political director of OCA, this should be no problem.

"We'll be in every shopping center in the state (gathering signatures), we have branches in every county, and we have

a mailing list of 120,000, so I see no problem in getting the signatures," he said.

This despite a statement released by the Oregon Catholic Conference in early September which asked parishioners to not sign or circulate the petition because of wording which the conference said was "overbroad, ambiguous and potentially harmful and discriminatory to homosexual citizens."

The conference also said the initiative could lead to housing and employment discrimination in addition to affirming attitudes that lead to hate crimes against gays and lesbians.

To make things even harder for the OCA, the Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, a mainstream umbrella group that

represents more than 2,000 different churches, released a statement condemning the initiative petition.

According to Ellen Lowe, the associate director of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon, the organization released a statement saying, "the Ecumenical Ministry of Oregon denounces the petition of the Oregon Citizens Alliance as malicious and disrespectful against gay and lesbian people. We discourage all Oregonians from signing the petitions."

Despite all the opposition, the OCA's Philip Ramsdell is confident.

"I think all the opposition is short-lived," he said. "Politicians will pay a very big price if they come out against us, so we're very confident and very happy in our position," he said.

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Resigning

Ed Coleman, English professor and co-director of the Folklore and Ethnic Studies Program, will step down from one position while keeping the other.

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Getting involved

The Student Senate is taking applications from those interested in serving on student/faculty committees.

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Know yourself

Career Consultant Marti Chaney spoke on Tuesday and gave advice on finding a satisfying occupation.

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Changes

The Oregon football team is undergoing some mid-season changes in both offense and defense, in an effort to get back on track.

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Future of free speech topic of Convocation

Speaker says all must be given voice

By Lisa Millegan
Emerald Reporter

Freedom of speech on university campuses should belong to all people, not just those who hold "politically correct" views, said the key-note speaker at Tuesday's University Convocation.

Although radical right-wing views such as white supremacy are considered wrong by most faculty members and students, university officials should still allow these views to be expressed, said Everett Dennis, executive director of the Freedom Forum Media Studies Center in New York.

"The campus, of course, ought to be a free zone where unpopular ideas are tolerated, not necessarily always accepted and embraced ... but challenged and massaged as the basis for further discussion and debate," he said.

"How much better for the student with racist or sexist attitudes to express them openly and be challenged rather than repress them and remain unchanged," he added.

A former editor of the *Oregon Daily Emerald*, Dennis was dean of the Uni-

versity's journalism school from 1981 to 1984. After leaving the school, he became founding director of the Media Studies Center, formerly known as the Gannett Center for Media Studies.

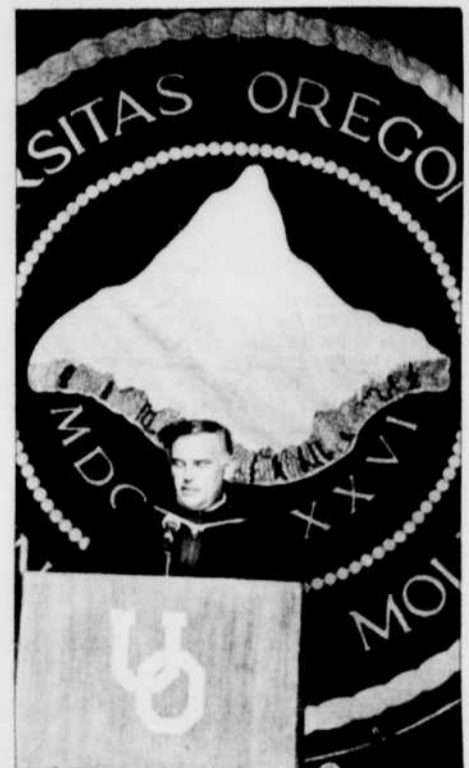
Also the director of the Center for Telecommunication and Information Studies of the Graduate School of Business at Columbia University, Dennis has written and co-authored 18 books and many articles in popular, professional and scholarly periodicals.

His speech, entitled "War of the Words: Freedom of Expression, the University and the Media" was sponsored by the journalism school and featured at the convocation, a university tradition to celebrate the opening of the academic year.

Dennis said he sympathizes with universities that have set up rules to prevent hate speech, but he said he doesn't like such codes because of their restrictions on freedom of speech.

"Although I am strongly opposed to speech that deliberately and wantonly fosters hatred and contempt, I am at the

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Everett Dennis