

Cost: The fee increase is caused mainly by increased staff costs

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"It's still pretty inexpensive, and it gives me a chance to come over and visit between classes," said David Everts, a parent majoring in biology. "This isn't too terrible."

Tari Embanks, a parent majoring in elementary education, said she agreed with the increase because much of the extra money went to raises.

"It takes a lot of energy to keep up with these little people," she said.

Reynolds said a minor increase rarely prevents parents from using the child care facilities. Most needy parents receive some financial aid, both from federal organizations and the ASUO Child Care Subsidy Program.

"But some parents may need to be a little tighter on hours," he said.

The Child Care and Development Centers have fixed costs, meaning that they are charged the same regardless of how many children are served. Thus, as attendance at the centers rises, costs to each parent fall.

The centers had hoped for increased attendance to prevent or minimize the fee increase. This did not happen.

The fee increase in University child care is part of a continuing trend of rising costs that affect low-income student parents, said Reynolds.

"Low-income families are getting priced right out of higher education," he said.



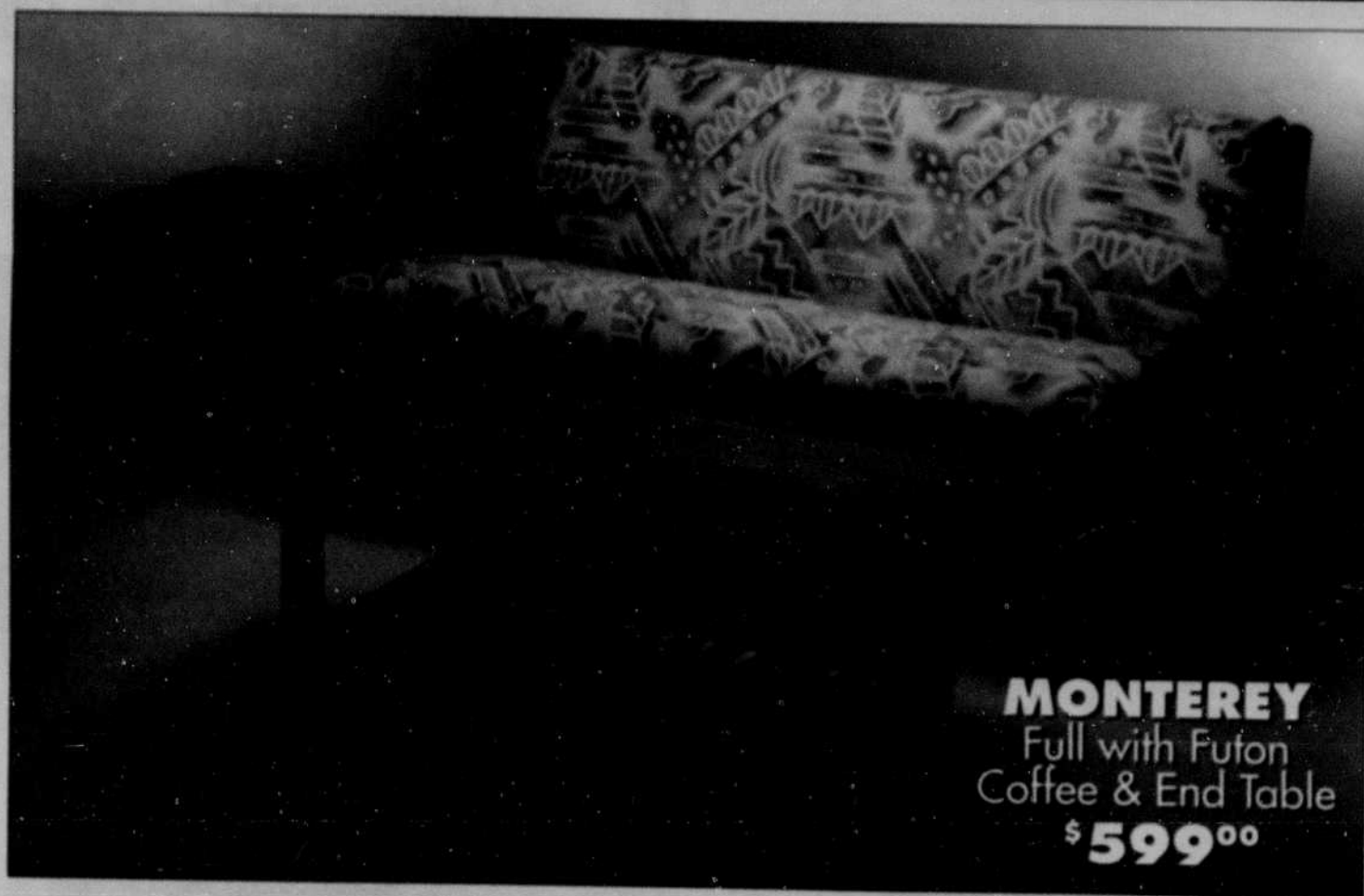
Rose Fung plays games with several of the children from the EMU Child Care Center.

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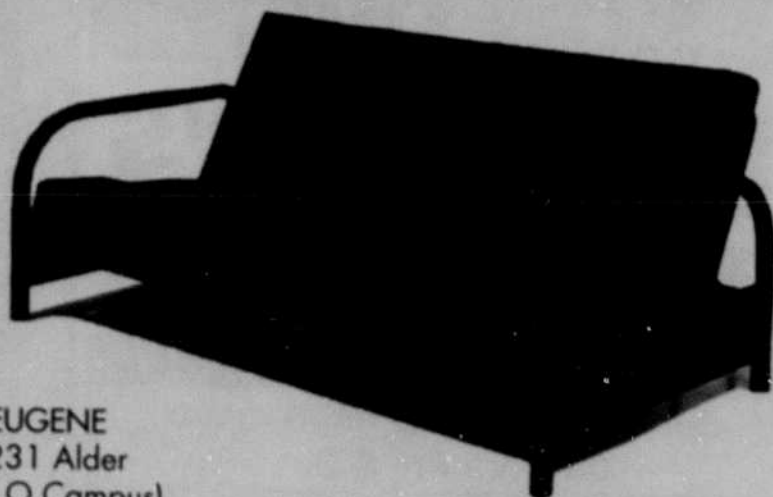
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Election: Wyden promises to protect old growth timber

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According to the poll, 45 percent of the respondents said they would vote for Smith while 42 percent said they would cast their ballots for Wyden, a 15-year veteran of the U.S. House of Representatives. Thirteen percent of voters said they were undecided.

At least one University student, Mark Hemingway, said that while he did not agree with Smith's political stances, the negative ads from both sides have soured him on both major party senatorial candidates, reflecting the sentiments of many Oregon voters.

Wyden said he would focus more on issues in the coming weeks of the campaign.

"I'm going to be doing my best to try to get this campaign up in the last couple of weeks," he said. "I want to get the tone of the campaign up, making sure people can see that we can have a thoughtful dialogue without getting to the decibel level it has reached over the last couple of weeks."

As part of his commitment to issues, Wyden said he would call for reform on the salvage rider law that allows logging of decaying old growth trees while protecting the financial security of families dependent on the timber industry.

"I want to see that old growth is protected," he said. "It's a treasure; we can lose it, and as your Senator, I'm going to get that rider cleaned up and make sure it's not used to cut down healthy trees on the west side, and you can count on that."

Wyden also pledged to push for a constitutional amendment to cap the amount of money being spent on political campaigns. He called the current system an "acid on the democratic process."

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