

Student Center Tour

by Kelli Cardenas

On behalf of the staff, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all new and returning students to FSU and the Rudolph Jones Student Center. This is the epicenter for student activities. The Center was built to provide facilities to meet the social, cultural and recreational needs of all students — traditional as well as non-traditional.

In the center, you will find a myriad of activities in which to partake. Allow me to serve as your hostess on a tour. The front entrance is on the foyer level where you will be greeted by persons at the information desk. Here, you will discover such informative literature as flyers announcing upcoming activi-

ties, events, and city bus schedules. The centers administration offices are located to the immediate left as you enter the doors. Daily operations of the center are administered by a staff led by Mr. Jerry Williams, Program Director; Mr. Gene Carroway, Game Room Supervisor; and Ms. Yvonne Robinson, indispensable Secretary. Further down the hall are the office locations of the Bronco Voice newspaper, the Yearbook and photography staff, and the Student Government Association.

On weekends and between or after classes throughout the semester, students enjoy gathering around televisions located in several areas of the building. The large screen television is located in a lounge area

across the hall from the office areas. A second, smaller TV is located in the main lounge area; another is near the stairs on the lower level; and a fourth is in the commuter lounge area adjacent to the snack bar on the main level. Along with the TV's on the lower level are also facilities for a barber shop, beauty salon, bowling, pool tables, card tables, foosball, air hockey and video game machines. The post office is also on this level with a separate entrance.

No semester can be complete without trying the freshly baked cookies sold in the Corral. There is also a conference room, photography studio, and music room. A large multi-purpose room is located next

to the kitchen to handle banquets and other large gatherings.

The student center is a home away from home for resident students and a place to relax for commuters. The staff here are responsive to your suggestions and we welcome all comments to better serve the FSU family. We have included a listing of normal hours for the center to be open. Monday-Thursday 8 A.M. to 10 P.M.; Friday 8 A.M. to 12 A.M.; Saturday 9 A.M. to 12 A.M.; and Sunday 3 P.M. to 10 P.M. Please check with individual offices for their hours.

The following is a list of some of the activities planned at the center.

Kelli Cardenas is editor of FSU's yearbook, The Fayettevillian.

The Non-Traditional Student: Child Care

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vider is foaming at the mouth and breathing down your neck threatening to discharge your children because you are two weeks to a month past due on your payments. Then it becomes a case of trying not to lose your cool on several return trips to the Financial Aid Office. Due to government regulations and stacks of uncooperative paperwork, the office staff has no control of the situation. Bad attitudes begin to accumulate on both sides, the student versus financial aid, like a tea kettle beginning to boil, until some days it is an outright explosion. And you thought Fort Bragg training exercises make a lot of noise.

I thought to myself, the military must have some answers. So I contacted Barbara Mantia, President of the Enlisted Wives Association to find out if they offered any scholarships. They do; the funds can only be used for tuition and books and any left over funds must be returned. I also contacted Jackie Zimmerman, Membership Chairperson and Terry Mattingly, Scholarship Chairperson of the Officers Wives Club, and found that they also offer scholarships.

Then I contacted the Army Family Advocacy Program on Fort Bragg to see if they had any information for the military non-traditional student as regard to day-care assistance. It was suggested that students should go to night school so the military spouse and student could take turns babysitting. Yeah, right. Many of the soldiers in the 82nd are out doing extensive training exercises for months at a time during the height of the school semester. And some military fami-

lies cannot count on extended family members for day-care needs because their spouses' military careers move the military family from its point of origin.

I looked up child-care information on Ft. Bragg and found they charge according to the soldiers' rank and payrate. No matter what enlisted rank, the family budget is being choked. For those who are E-6 and above the child-care costs are competitive with rates offered throughout Cumberland County.

I heard that Fayetteville State had child-care facilities on campus. So I decided to go talk to Mr. Matthew R. Bowman at the Early Childhood Learning Center that is housed in two buildings here on the Fayetteville State Campus. The Learning Center is under the direction of the School of Education. The center not only serves the university, but the Fayetteville community as well. According to the Early Childhood Learning Center Parent's Handbook, "The center's curriculum provides each child with basic conceptual understandings. Individual classrooms vary in the method of presentation, the specific objectives to be attained, and the abstractedness of the material and ideas used."

I asked Mr. Bowman how many students utilized the facility, "It is one-third percent. Even some of the faculty have their children enrolled in the school." The enrollment is on a "first-come, first served" basis. One person whom I met at the copy machine in the C.J. Barber building said his daughter is only eighteen months, and has already put his child on the list because the waiting period could be as long as two years. According to Mr. Bowman, when openings become available all depends on the age of the child.

I was very impressed with the facility and the programs offered. It was very clean and looked like a place I would not mind leaving my children in care of. The Mitchell Building serves three year olds with a current enrollment of thirty (30). And the Newbold Building serves children four to five years old. But what if you have children older or younger than three through five year olds? According to Mr. Bowman there was a center for children six months to eighteen months old, but it was discontinued in 1988 due to lack of funding.

I have heard nothing but positive comments from students who have their children currently enrolled. The average cost is two hundred eight dollars (\$208.00) per month. This is way below the cost of an average day-care / preschool facility which is two hundred fifty-two dollars (\$252.00) per month for three to five year olds. If you have an infant, the price could get as high as two hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$268.00) per month for quality day-care.

Mr. Bowman also said the center is trying to get funding for the "Smart Start" program. According to Ms. Rossie Bullard, Executive Director of the Cumberland County Partnership for Children, "The Cumberland County Partnership for Children which oversees the Smart Start funds is paying attention to the need for day-care subsidy for the working poor." As of yet, "working poor" has not been defined.

Ms. Bullard and I both agreed that we may not see any immediate changes, but the challenges of providing day-care are to be reckoned with. It is our hope that in the future, higher learning institutions, governments, and businesses will take the above social change consideration. As we well know, our future is at stake.

January

- 7 7 pm to 7 am
Pajama Party
- 12-13 ACU-I Recreational
Tournament
- 14 Martin Luther King, Jr.
Birthday Celebration
- 17-21 9:30 am to 4:30 pm
Video Program:
Living the Dream (I & II)
In Remembrance of Martin
Montgomery to Memphis
- 18 7 pm
Bingo (multipurpose room)
- 21-23 7 pm to 10 pm
Weekend Movies / free
play activities
- 24-28 Video Tape:
The Sorrow and the
Spectacle

February

- 1 Video Tape
Eye on the Prize
- 7-11 Video Tape:
Malcom X — An
Autobiography
- 21-25 Video Tape: