Registration in Student Development

Child care facility to open in January

By LABEEBAH PRIDGEN

This month faculty, staff, and students will be able to register their children ages 2-5 for the WCC Preschool which will open in January, according to Sherry Granberry, instructor and adviser to 80 students in the Early Childhood Development Program.

Since May 1994 when she became the child-hood coordinator, having a child care facility has been her goal, she said.

Granberry said WCC administrators have made many efforts since the late 80's to initiate on-campus child care.

She and WCC administrators are now seeking funding for equipment.

WCC will lease a building formerly called the Family Y Daycare located on the Wayne Memorial Hospital grounds.

She said interested parents should sign up in the Student Development area.

The facility will serve children of WCC students, faculty, and staff at a cost of $80 weekly; the fee covers lunch and 2 snacks.

The program should have up to 50 children.

The Preschool will serve as a lab site for students in the Early Childhood Development program so that they can observe child development.

On November 21, 1997, WCC announced a position for a Child Care Center Director who will work with Granberry.

They will plan and implement Early Childhood Departmental philosophy and operational procedures for the preschool laboratory setting.

They will also supervise staff, maintain parent communications, and coordinate departmental schedules and student practicums and observations.

Granberry said that the project represents the realization of a long-time goal for a service WCC has needed for years.

Teleconference focuses on prevention of suicide

By CHRISTOPHER S. DAILY

What is one of the most preventable forms of death?

About 91 people, including the classes of 2 WCC instructors--Dr. Edmond Hogan and Liz Meador--found out on Tuesday, October 29, 1997, at a live satellite tele-conference entitled "Preventing Adolescent Suicide."

The teleconference ran from 2:30-4:00 p.m. in the Lecture Hall.

Sponsors of the teleconference included The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and America's Continuing Education Networks.

Teleconference participants pointed out that in 1995, 31,000 American took their lives. Suicide attempts number 775,000 annually, making suicide the 9th ranked cause of death.

However, suicide ranks third as the cause of death for those ages 15-24, accounting for 20% of male and 14% of female suicides, according to The Harvard Mental Health Letter.

Numbers for this age group have quadrupled in the last 40 years, teleconference lecturers revealed, with females attempting suicide 3 times as often as males.

More people die from suicide than homicide, according to Jerry Weyrauch, chair and founder of SPAN, a nation-wide group whose purpose is to educate others about suicide prevention.
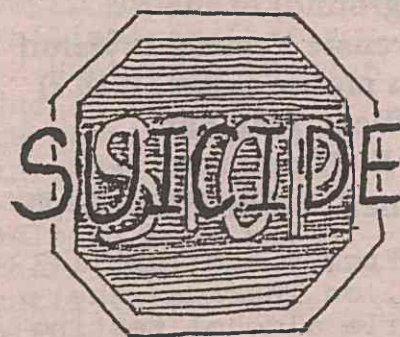
Speakers said that we lose 85 people daily to suicide, and attitudes that this number is acceptable must change.

Western states have higher rates than Eastern ones, with New York, New Jersey, and Washington, DC having the lowest rates.

Handouts distributed to WCC participants detailed 56 observable signs of suicide risk--warning signs classified as Interpersonal/Classroom Behavioral Signs, Verbal Expressions of Suicidal Intent, Stressful Episodes, and Chronic Stressful Life Situations.
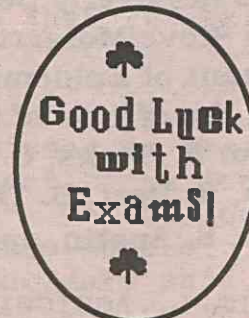
Some of these signs include preoccupation with themes of death or expressing suicidal thoughts, previous suicide attempts, and lingering expressions of unworthiness or failure.

Teleconference speakers suggested avoiding the use of "commit suicide," changing the term instead to "complete suicide" to remove a negative connotation.