

Center works hard to put students first

By CECILIA LYNN CASEY

North Carolina Wesleyan College has seen many changes this year from last year. There are new professors, improvements in the residence halls, a large freshman class, new classrooms, and a whole new center for students designed to add to the quality of the education offered here at Wesleyan.

The new Student Services Center is new in operation and location. Several previous departments have combined into one complete service and has been located in what used to be classrooms. When a student walks through the doors, he or she can tell this is a place designed for students.

Tina Jones, secretary for the center, smiles at students and lets them know from the very first

Shopping at mall no place to foster Christmas spirit

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then down; the walking kid pulled his mother down on top of him; and the couple toppled backwards, hardly breaking kiss.

Wrapped packages spread out and fell like shrapnel. The crowd of shoppers barely noticed, surging around the pile on the floor and closing rank just beyond. The mother expertly checked the well-being of her kids, dexterously regathered packages, and heatedly berated the couple.

The coattail kid interrupted his mother by saying, "Mom, you're yelling at Uncle Clyde." The woman paused, suspiciously, eyeing the lovers now rising from the floor. "Clyde? What the hell? Hey, your present is in here somewhere. Get away, close your eyes, who is this tramp you're with?"

Clyde calmed his sister, patted the kids on their respective heads, and advised them to chill out. Wasn't Christmas supposed to be fun?

"Fun?" his sister scoffed. "Only for those of you without kids and responsibilities. Now what have you bought Mom?" The crowd swiftly carried them away.

My friends and I left the mall and went looking for some pine cones.

that those working in the center are genuinely happy to see students there. She is quick to let someone else know that visitors are there and will be happy to chat with them while they wait.

The first person a visitor might see could be Pat Cerjan, who is in charge of running the center. Her many jobs include overseeing the early assessment program, making freshmen contact, helping students with learning disabilities get the help they need, and just simply being there to direct all students to departments and services that will enrich their college careers.

"I assist students with finding help for their needs. I talk with them and find out where they need help or just a service to get ahead," she said. "Most students think that the center is just for students who having trouble, which is not true. The center is for everyone."

A few offices away, Sarah Shutt is the director of orientations and in charge of helping students become great students by improving their study skills. She will see where students strong points are in their study skills and where they can improve. She often has workshops on test-taking,



time management, and studying for exams. Though she works with many freshmen because of Spotlight, she works with anyone who would like to improve their study skills.

The next door over is LaRue Elliott, who mostly works with freshmen and sophomores in helping them discover a career after college. She will give several tests and introduce them to Discover, a computer program which tells about the many jobs opened to different majors. Then she will sit down and work out a career map, which is looking at the college's curriculum and seeing what would be most helpful to students later on in their career.

After students have decided what they would like to do, Kathy Smith sees to it that they have a chance to start doing it before they leave college. She will find internships and jobs for students to see if that is truly what they want to do in life.

"We will sit down and talk re-

alistically about your skills, personal interests, and how well you're doing in college and what this will mean when you're looking for a job," Smith said.

Not doing well with studies even after Sarah Shutt's help? No problem. Dr. Margee Morrison and her team of tutors is more than willing to help work with students to reach their potential. Morrison directs 25 tutors who tutor in 26 subjects. This semester, Peer's Tutors Crossing is helping 115 students and will start weekend tutoring next semester because of the great demand students have for tutors.

Morrison is currently recruiting students to become tutors and take her tutor training, which will offer theories, philosophy, and pedagogies which is tutoring techniques. So students who are there to tutor or be tutored cannot help but learn.

Connie Hinsley is administrative assistant for the center. She works with students and lends a hand to other persons in the center. "I work with LaRue and Discover, College 101, Spotlight, and I give tours of the center," she said.

The one overall thing that strikes visitors about the whole

center is that even though it is new, it has done very well this semester. This is because everyone working there enjoys their job and loves working with the students.

"You always get the feeling that every little thing that happens here will make a difference," Pat Cerjan said. "It's great to see that you're really helping students."

LaRue Elliott noted about the center that "what we are learning is that this service combined beautifully, because everyone here wants what students want, which is that when they leave Wesleyan they'll be happy and well-adjusted to their lives and careers."

Sarah Shutt and Connie Hinsley said the newness of the center also gives them a chance to be creative and work with new ideas.

But mostly Kathy Smith and Margee Morrison summed it up best when they both said that, "I love working with students."

So as things settle down and everyone looks forward to next semester, among the new things at Wesleyan remains something old which stills hold true, which is that the student comes first.

Put more emphasis on culture

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cultural events and functions.

In any small community that is separate from a major community, it is vital to keep a lifeline open to the larger community so that the smaller one can keep up-to-date with current trends or ideas, or else the small community will grow stagnant and die. N.C.W.C. meets this need by selecting entertainers that are in accord with present trends. This semester there were several bands, a few comedians, and one mentalist. Student turnouts to these events were fair, but not in any way proportionate to the numbers enrolled here. In fact, these events showed the best turnouts of the semester.

At the other events, Wesleyan has had, the number of those who turned out were only a couple of dozen people. This should be surprising when one considers the number of cultural events and college functions there were this year. There should have been

many people flocking to these scant occurrences, all eager to enjoy the diversity of these events. However, there were not many people nor were the events diverse.

Because this is a liberal arts college, the students should be exposed to as great of a range of plays, authors, artists, concerts, and intellectual gatherings as this college's money can secure. There should be more cultural events than guest entertainers, and the cultural events should cover a wide range of things. If there is not enough money for all, the entertainers should be considered only after the cultural events have been arranged.

Dr. Smith and Vaughn Shultz have done an outstanding job at providing cultural events this semester, with Dr. Smith organizing the Visiting Writers Series and Shultz directing the only play along with the dinner theatre. But even the wonder job they did cannot make up for the fact that there just was not enough for this

college to truly educate its students.

It would have been equally as bad to have had only events and functions with nothing to help students have fun and relax, but for every one cultural event planned there were three enjoyment-based events planned, and this is far worse than having it the other way around. (Although this is in no way meant to suggest that cultural events are not fun and there is nothing to be learned from many entertainers!)

N.C.W.C. needs to rethink its policy and balance out the two. To all the staff who work *very hard* to see that these entertainers were engaged there should be a hearty round of applause; their efforts have been great and the entertainers have been top-notch. Thank you. It cannot be easy to meet the needs of an entire campus, though this is what has been done in the entertainment department. I don't mean to criticize them in any way, and really there should not have to be a choice

between entertainment or culture. But as long as funds remain, rather accounted for, shall we say?, there will be the hard decision of who gets them.

Hopefully, with the new theater house and the theater major that will be offered here, there will be no need for anyone to want for either light entertainment or enjoyable culture. But if these two things are not soon in coming, the overall quality of education here must be questioned. N.C.W.C.'s students *need* the element of education that can only be obtained by crying at a sad play, or wondering about an author, or smiling at a new painting, or even humming along with a concert for this to be a true liberal arts college.

This year these things were offered and experienced by some, and this was good. What is bad and cannot be allowed to continue is this one last thought: what things in terms of cultural possibilities did Wesleyan's students not experience?