Child Care...

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Marylynn Tomlin, president of the Top of the Hill Club, summed up the importance of having a child care service on campus for students: "Day care can make or break an adult student by giving them the ability to matriculate and hold on to classes and partake in activities."

Members of Women Today agree and Diana Hume-George, faculty advisor for Women Today added, "its everybody's problem and concern."

What should be done?

While the need for child care on campus seems to be universally accepted, sides differ on how much is actually being accomplished and exactly what should be done.

Lilley is very optimistic about the progress which has been accomplished.

"The model that is being recommended is the one we're going to go with. Given the fact that we have 22 campuses, it is not possible for the University to own its own program at all of these locations. There is just not enough money at Penn State,"

according to Lilley.

The proposal that the University is encouraging is for each campus to select a profit child care organization who would build a facility on campus property, leasing the land for one dollar a year. At the end of fifteen years, the facility will become University property.

"The whole university is very much split on some important issues..." - Dr. Chris Reber Dean of Student Services

This proposal has received criticism from members of the Women's Commission at Behrend and from members of the child task force.

Spies explained, "A draw back to having a profit organization on campus is that it would have different goals than the University. We wouldn't be able to conduct research or have student work study programs."

agh money at Penn State," student work study programs." **Barbatos** ITALIAN RESTAURANT Large Cheese & Pepperoni Pizza for Only \$6.99 plus tax Free Delivery with this coupon Expires 4/10/90



Reber however, indicated that they are currently discussing such programs with possible providers and are optimistic about their cooperation for such programs.

Lilley added, "if we wait til we got a University based program, it'd be 20 years; it's just not possible. That's an issue that really needs to be put to rest; whatever we think of profit versus nonprofit, the nonprofit is just not possible."

Under Fire

Despite progress made by the University, the administration is still under fire from many groups on campus.

The accusation against the administration is that they don't empathize with the problem of child care partly because they still look at child care as a woman's issue and not a University problem.

Lilley responded to the accusations, "By appointing [the task force] and by accepting its recommendations, the University has acknowledged that it is a University problem and not just a women's problem."

Split Decision

Are you an Athlete without a Sport? Erie Rugby has a position for YOU!! Women call Judy 474-5856 PM Men call George 825-9478 PM Reber expanded on some of categorically that will happen for the problems that have been raised.

"The whole University community is very much split on some important issues. There are people out there who think that the priority should be serving faculty [full-time care, year round basis]. There are obviously people who think the top priority should be serving students [drop in care, per semester basis]. The real problem is that when we start to talk about a facility, the needs of those two groups are very different."

The actual breakdown between faculty, staff and student need as assessed in the 1987 study showed that the total number students needing child care was 128, staff needing care was 34 and faculty needing care was 41.

The assessment also found that by providing an on-campus facility, enrollment could increase by a minimum of 92 new students.

When asked about a possible date for implementing a child care program, Lilley responded, "Ideally, my private hope is fall '91. One can certainly not say

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lots of reasons. That is kind of my private, internal goal to try to make it by fall of '91 if at all possible."

Negotiations Underway

A representative from Kindercare Learning Centers, a national child care organization, has met with members of the administration and the Behrend child-care task force. While their proposal is being considered, other profit organizations will be examined as well.

"We're not going to be anything but very careful in signing the contract," said Lilley. "It is going to be on our campus, serving our constituents, we certainly want to be very sure that it is a good group. The contract is with the University and we're going to be very careful."

Even though the college has already accepted recommendations to start a daycare program, Lilley added, "I do by the way want the scrapbook. [Pictures for the Provost]. I still want the scrapbook. I think that would be wonderful...that was more than clever, it was touching."

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