

# Mixed feelings about daycare proposal

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ascertain whether the center can be accommodated and so far there have been no problems.

As soon as the task force receives complete approval from University Park, the RFP will be refined and sent out to 50 of the largest child care providers in the country as well as all of the local child care agencies. According to Reber, "it's truly too soon" to determine which provider will be used.

Penn State University will furnish the land for the center, while the child care provider is expected to construct, landscape and operate the facility. When the lease agreement expires the facility will be turned over to the University.

The desired facility profile, as listed in the RFP, includes reduced rate packages for Penn State students, faculty, and staff; flexible part time care; a parent-faculty-staff advisory board and provisions for Behrend faculty for research and teaching purposes.

Also included in the package are year-round operational services with special arrangements for school age children during the summer months; allowances for future expansion and enrollment

capacity for 85-100 children ranging from six weeks to kindergarten.

While the conditions on the desired facility profile are negotiable, flexible part time care and reduced rate packages for Penn State clients are two of the provisions that are also listed as specific requirements.

Other required conditions include encouraged parental visitation and priority for the Penn State students, faculty and staff over the general community.

Although the entire Behrend community agrees on the need for a day care center on campus, there are more students who profess an immediate interest in the facility.

According to the Summary of Child Care Efforts report compiled by the task force, the majority of faculty and staff are satisfied with their own current child care arrangements and rated the cost, program, staff, location and operating hours of their arrangements as 'excellent' or 'very good'.

The majority of students on the other hand, were generally dissatisfied with all aspects of their current arrangements.

In addition, only 18% of the faculty and staff responded that they would definitely use the

facility, while 54% of the students responded that they would use it.

Given the overwhelming need for day care services for students, some have expressed discontent with the current proposal, saying that it addresses the needs of the faculty and staff over that of the students. Others feel the proposal is adequate.

**"It's an excellent beginning. However, it does need to be expanded."**

**-Diane Ziemniak  
communications major  
5th semester**

Nicole Stanger, eighth semester accounting major and president of Top Of The Hill said, "I am happy with the situation because I don't see any other way to do it, but I recognize that there are people who are dissatisfied."

Coral Hudson, eighth semester accounting major and president of The Veterans' Club, adds that "at this point anything

is better than nothing. Ideally, we would prefer a drop off service to accommodate students but since that's not possible, it's not that big of an issue."

Paula Mallin, eighth semester business/behavioral sciences major, serves as the student representative on the Behrend child care task force.

She is dissatisfied with a commercial provider on campus, saying "I think that type of child care service would meet the needs of some of the Behrend community, namely the faculty and staff, but it's not going to help the majority of students who simply cannot afford the services."

Mallin mentioned Kindercare as one possible provider who expressed interest in the project but who prefers full time clients over part time care.

She pointed out that the students' basic need is a "babysitting service, not a preschool and while the various programs offered by commercial providers sound great, who can afford them?"

Mallin cites the New Kensington campus co-op model for day care as the ideal for students. Under this program the

parents provide the care by working in the program for a certain number of hours a week in proportion to the amount of hours their children spend in the program.

The New Kensington Model has been in existence for 12 years and has a waiting list to get in.

Mallin has researched this alternative extensively and finds it to be a workable solution for the students.

"There is room on this campus for two models of day care: a commercial provider to offer full time care and a co-op which essentially is a babysitting service for those students who can't afford the commercial rates."

The University however is unwilling to accept the liability for such a venture. A commercial provider accepts full liability which makes it a more feasible proposal for the college.

Diane Ziemniak, fifth semester communications major, and president of Woman Today seemed to sum up the general sentiment of students best when she said, "It's an excellent beginning. However, it does need to be expanded. It isn't the ideal as of now and won't provide all the needed services - but it is a beginning."

## Disturbance at ABC dance may bring policy changes

by Mark Owens  
Collegian Managing Editor

Regulations governing club and organization events may change following an incident last week during an Association of Black Collegians dance.

The dance, held in the Reed Building, was interrupted by two disturbances, both of which required Police and Safety officers to bring under control.

"The first call, which came in around 11:30 p.m., wasn't really physical. There were about 10 non-students involved, but no one volunteered information," said Randy Hoffman, Manager of Police and Safety.

Officers again returned to the dance at approximately 1:00 a.m. to break up a fight.

"Officers had to escort five male non-students to their vehicles and then off campus," Hoffman said. "No injuries were reported and no arrests or citations were made." During the fight tables and chairs were allegedly thrown, though no damage was reported.

Both Hoffman and Verna Johnson, president of ABC, said the students involved in the altercations were not Behrend students.

"The problem didn't start during the dance," Johnson said. "Apparently the two groups had their differences beforehand and when they saw each other...."

Hoffman noted there were not any Student Auxiliary officers present at the dance, though

Police and Safety officers made extra stops during their patrol.

"ABC apparently didn't anticipate a large crowd at the dance," Hoffman said. "Because of that and last-minute notice about the dance an SA (student auxiliary) wasn't assigned."

Currently, clubs and organizations are recommended to

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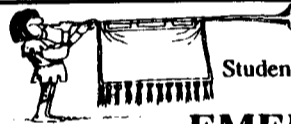
**-David Shields  
Assistant Dean of  
Student Services**

have SA's, depending on the nature of the event.

"Typical policy is that if an event is expected to draw more than 200 people we require Student Auxiliary. The club or organization is responsible for making the necessary arrangements to have those people on hand," said Assistant Dean of Student Services David Shields.

That policy may change, but Shields said it's still under study.

"Student Services may take on the responsibility of having Student Auxiliary present in the future. It still depends on the event, though. But in the future we will more strongly recommend the use of Student Auxiliary," Shields said.



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Student Activities and Student Organization Council

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