Day Care Center Opened At USL

One more outward evidence of the involvement of University of Southwestern Louisiana students in meaningful projects is the USL Student Government Association day care center, which began operations last week on a limited scale. This week the Day Care Center is in full operation.

Many things are still needed, however, and Jack Raine, USL student, who is director of the day care center, will be talking to service and civic organizations in the weeks ahead about the center and its needs.

With more and more students in college being married and with children and with either one or both parents in school or one in school and one working some kind of day care center has been needed. There are 2,250 married students at USL. The idea of establishing one has been considered and further back as 1964. In the interim uncoordinated efforts resulted in groups of people in Vet Village forming baby sitting groups.

Action Taken

The USL Student Government Association, with Ray Allain, Jeanerette, as president decided to make a concerted effort to bring the USL Day Care Center just from the talking stage to reality. Commissioner of Education, Don Hidalgo, Franklin, and Jack Raine, conducted a survey of married students in Vet Village to get their reaction. The response indicated that there would be support for such a project.

Plans then went forward with Jack Raine pushing the project with help from the executive branch of SGA. The University supplied a war surplus building previously used as a visitors' dormitory. The USL Maintenance Department remodeled the building with one side to be used for infants up to two years old and the other side to be used for the two-year-old five-year-olds.

Gains Experience

Raine, who has had experience working with a day care center in New York, gained valuable information and experience about day care centers as the result of a tour of seven different countries in Europe to visit day care centers.

This information is being put to good use in the USL day care center. The center operates with Raine as director; Mrs. Connie Richardson, assistant director; Jack Raine, Lafayette, director; and Ray Allain, Jeanerette, president, USL SGA.

Management Inc. on campus is preparing the food and bringing it to the center. There is some food preparation in the center except for infant formula preparation.

The tuition cost for the one in the center is $22 for the first child, $15 for the second, and $10 for each additional child. The cost for one half-day is $11.

Raine said the big problem now is finding a suitable place for the center. SGA hopes to obtain funds for the project from the state, while campus organizations and service and civic groups in the area are urged to make donations of funds or materials to the center.

“We especially need cribs,” Allain said, “and we would welcome any cribs not being used by families.”

Allain added that contributions to the center have already been made by merchants which made it possible for the center to open.

Other merchants have indicated that they will make contributions, he added.

Raine said that it is hoped that all departments on campus will be involved with the care center. Students in education and psychology will be able to have first-hand experience with observation of children, for example.

USL professors already have work with the project include Mrs. Turgene Montgomery, assistant professor of home economics; Dr. Alene Garcia, assistant professor of psychology; Dr. Robert H. Allen, assistant professor of education; and Allen St. Mary, dean of student services.

Volunteer workers include Mrs. Vivian Yates, Mrs. Isabella Bischoff and Miss K. Meadows, all of Lafayette, and 60-80 children are enrolled.

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