

The Richmond Times

VOL. IX NO. 7

RICHMOND COLLEGE-CITY UNIVERSITY

MAY 17, 1972

The Richmond College Day Care Center is Still Alive, and Living, and Well at Stuyvesant Market (despite stories to the contrary).

by The Parents and Staff of the Richmond College Day Care Center

Darlene Livingston, a former member of the Richmond College Student Parent Assn., coincidentally saw fit to publish an article entitled, "Why Does the Richmond Day Care Center Exist?" in the final issue of the Richmond Times. By her own admission a member of a group "working to get rid of" us, Darlene apparently has been brushing up on McCarthyism to do the job. We are not going to indulge her fantasies of neglect and child beating. They are flatly slanderous and we plan to prove so in court. However, her convenient timing after months of shall we say "community organizing" with her group does speak for some very real issues at the Center.

Foremost of these issues are the "approximately forty people" whom she chooses to deride. They happen to be approximately four-fifths of the parents who use the center. The fact that "two years of work" have not created a bureaucracy as efficient as the public school system is seen by her as "a fiasco." We can only say that this center has been operative for almost three years. It has done so, god forbid, without a finalized charter. It has done so because from 8 to 6, five days a week the student staff who she suggests be replaced by "a good experimental school in early childhood supervised by teachers with certification in early child" (So much for the saga of "student as nigger,"), work with the children. They are not given the luxury of casual "observation" that a professional studies student is provided. Every lesson is learned in what "observers" call the field.

Livingston rages that a complaint regarding the absence of criteria "for the eligibility or expulsion of children" was met with appointment of a grievance committee.

As a parent, not observer, at the time she made no comments of her displeasure with the resolve of the forty parents there. Nor did she volunteer, as another member of the "dump" group did, for service on that committee. All we can ask is, what would she have us do...declare martial law?

The RCA "dispensed with the investigation" because there was no official investigation. In fact, one parent saw fit to hold a closed session with RCA on the subject. Based on that, the parents (that is, the other 40 or so) requested that RCA attend a parent meeting to reassure them that a charter was drawn up for discussion long before the "dump" group began. To date, there still is no final charter. It is, and has been open for discussion.

Now, to get at what is most misleading in Mrs. Livingston's diatribe Professional Studies involvement, whether conscious or no, and the growing protest movement of welfare mothers and day care centers throughout this City. We spent the day this diatribe was released answering Mrs. Livingston. That is unfortunate, for the Committee for Community Control of Day Care was demonstrating in Child Development Commissioner McMurray's office. We are one of two centers on the Island who are members (the other is New Morning). Mrs. Livingston wants to throw control of your center to "professional studies." In fact, based on the lack of "professionals" on staff she has "some serious questioning of principles before support is given to government sponsorship of day care." Amen. So do we, but for reasons exactly opposite Mrs. Livingston's. We, and the Committee we belong to,

oppose HR I or any bill that attempts to turn day care into the "custodial" care she accuses us of. "Custodial care" at Willowbrook is courtesy of "professionals." The public school system is courtesy of "professionals." Only day care stands outside the purview of the public school system and its university "feeder" system. It is run by "professional" parents and those they see fit to run their centers.

Finally, this whole affair has a certain "convenience" in light of our fight for adequate space and building (the lack of which Mrs. Livingston claims we foist on our children). We are attempting, with RCA support, to get a synagogue on Victory Blvd. Next Wednesday we, with the administration... and at the demand of the parents... are meeting with the City to see about a loan. Coincidentally Mrs. Livingston's article follows close on the heels (last week) of a move by Professional Studies to create a "field" school on St. Marks via sponsorship of our center—an item they need to set up an "Institute" for early childhood... not to mention justify the \$75,000 a year rent for the three-story building the school wants. Professional studies has so far offered three students in the early childhood program. No parents, no student staff of the center.

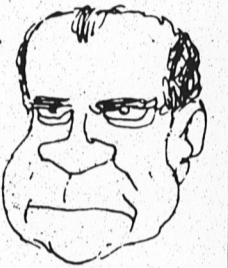
As far as the lies regarding our physical plant (dangerous windows which we spent \$100 on for plexiglass a year ago), we suggest you heed Mrs. Livingston's cry... "Observe." We have nothing to hide from you. More than ever before, the children of our center need your protection and care. You have a student center, funded by students, staffed by students, run by student parents... fight to keep it that way.

Feiffer

IF YOU THINK EVERYTHING YOUR GOVERNMENT TELLS YOU IS A LIE -



AND WE KNOW YOU THINK THAT -



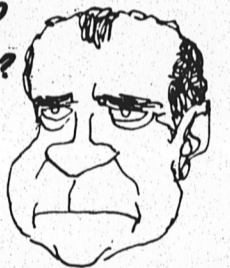
AND WE GO OUT OF OUR WAY TO PROVE TO YOU WE'RE NOT LYING -

ARE WE STILL LYING?

OR ARE WE TELLING THE TRUTH?

AND BY NOW -

HOW WOULD WE KNOW?



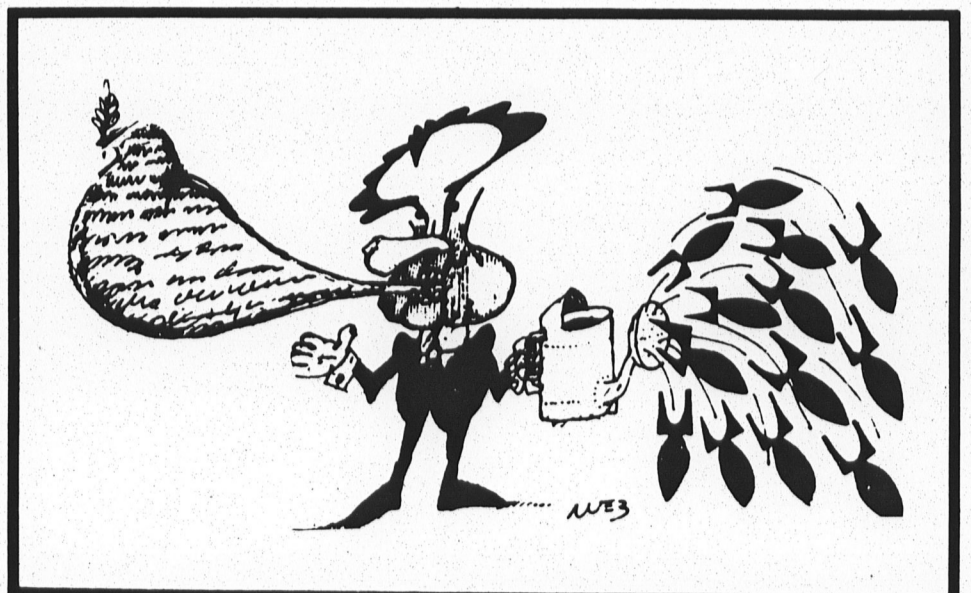
Wallace Shot At Rally; Two Suspects Held

Laurel, Maryland (May 15, 1972)—Special—Alabama Governor George Wallace was shot three times after completing a speech before over two thousand people today in Laurel, Maryland. Wallace was hit in the abdomen, right arm and right hand and is reported to be in serious condition. One of his campaign workers was also wounded, but authorities would not disclose her name.

Police have reported that they have two suspects in custody, but would not make any further comment as to their identity.

President Nixon called the shooting "the act of madmen" and promised swift action to bring those responsible to justice.

There was no immediate reaction from any of the other candidates for the Democratic nomination, but sources say that if Wallace survives, which he is expected to do, it will aid in his campaign.



EDITORIALS

... On The Day Care Center

In the past, THE RICHMOND TIMES has printed articles that have run the gamut of the political and social spectrum. In most cases, THE RICHMOND TIMES has not agreed with the points of view expressed by individual writers, but the policy of the RICHMOND TIMES is this:

THE RICHMOND TIMES is a totally free newspaper, and being such, we do not permit censorship of any form.

THE RICHMOND TIMES will and has printed any article submitted by any Richmond College student, regardless of its' point of view, as long as space permits.

Such is the case with an article entitled "Why Does The Richmond Day Care Center Exist?", which appeared on page three of our last issue (Volume IX, No. 6) While we do not agree with Ms. Darlene Livingston, the author, THE RICHMOND TIMES does not feel that we are in a position to sit in judgement of any individual's personal feelings.

More than once in the last year and a half, THE RICHMOND TIMES has declared its unanimous support of the Richmond College Day Care Center, and we reiterate that support. It would be ridiculous to think that we acted with malice in printing Ms. Livingston's article.

THE RICHMOND TIMES is only too happy to give the Day Care Center equal time to respond with this special edition.

The Richmond Times

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A Pleasant Summer To All-The Purpose and The Power

— The Editors

Much love and good wishes to our secretary, Fran Campone, who will marry our former News Editor, Gerald Harawitz on Saturday, May 20th.

LETTERS

The Parents Respond

To The Richmond Times:

As a parent of a child enrolled in the Richmond College Day Care Center, I would like to register my shock and dismay at the article published in the Richmond Times called "Why Does the Richmond Day Care Center Exist?" I find it difficult to start and combat the plethora of unsubstantiated facts, innuendoes, wild and unfounded charges present in the article you published.

Let me start then at my beginning. I first discovered the Center by accident during my lunch break one day this past summer. I peered into a window decorated with day-glow flowers and saw children playing with great joy and energy. I asked if I could take a tour and was invited in. I spent several lunch hours there investigating the Center and knew that there was something unique going on. That here was a place where kids got together, where they engaged in art, in exercise, in play, and where they were happy. I had something to compare the Center with since my daughter had gone to a laboratory nursery school run by Smith College. Yet with all that school's fancy equipment, gorgeous grounds, prestigious Ph.D.'s in early childhood education, the Richmond College Center was far superior in its commitment to the development of children.

And I was right. My son has been going to the Center for more than six weeks. During that time he has become more independent, more verbal, and more confident of his abilities. When he cries on Saturday because he can't go to his school, I know my decision to enroll him in the Center was the right one and I also know that there is no resemblance between the place he has grown to love and the place described in your article.

Sincerely
Ilene Singh

To The Richmond Times:

Darlene Livingston has seen fit to join with others and castigate our son's center. We find it necessary to respond, not due to any belief that her charges have even the slightest factual base, but rather, out of ear that ideas such as hers will be allowed to manage any form of education.

Her "observations" about a meeting she participated in are the least worrisome item in her diatribe. To answer simply, there was no "evidence"—in fact we don't recall any charges or "investigations" but, leaving that "slight" distortion of her observatory powers aside, we must question some basic premises on which she issues her "call to arms."

We do not view day care as a "transition" from home to school. Our center is a home and a school (We use the term "school" loosely lest we condemn ourselves through guilt by association). We don't think planning for "modified behavior" can give "an environment free to explore his expanding world",—we not only don't think it—we know it. Planning has given us the concrete fortresses that we call "schools."

To The Richmond Times:

In answer to the article published in the Richmond Times May 12, 1972, entitled, "Why Does the Richmond College Day Care Center Exist?"

I as a parent involved with the center would like to express first my shock, and then my utter outrage at this uncalled for and unfounded "Piece of journalism."

The effect of Ms. Livingston's article is to depict the daycare center as a place where children are abused, neglected, and subjected to the worst kinds of distress. My child, Ms. Livingston informs me, will suffer the consequences of such a place, that is: "passivity, conformity, repression, rebellion, dependency and learning ways of escape."

Rather than challenging her qualification to make such a statement (and one might very easily do that), I would rather ask her how she came to allow her son Brian to attend such a place all of the Sept. term and then express a desire to re-register him in Jan. 1972? Surely it seems a bit strange that someone who felt so strongly about such a place (after careful observation, of course) would even consider leaving her child there.

Yet she did. And now she complains. One may guess as to the real reason for such an attack. In fact, hers has more to do with a failure to submit her application for Brian on time, blaming the Center for her own oversight. Even after accommodation was made for her son—at the cost of someone else on the waiting list—she continued to vaew Center operations as some grand conspiracy against her.

Unfortunately for everybody concerned, Ms. Livingston's personal revenge became a not-too-clever article to slander the Day Care Center.

Barbara Benemio

We do not see our child's emotional growth being aided by centers who work "to modify behavior." The last place we would like our sons in is professionally modifying centers that serve as the basement for the production mill our society has chosen to call an educational system.

We do not view our child as being neglected or "his fears being constantly renewed" because he is playing, living and learning with non-professionals who haven't acquired the necessary level of "education" which allows them to accept the environment that smothers children in our school system. The very same professionals who planned and gave us the Willowbrook. Mrs. Livingston has chosen to compare us with.

We might continue for hours illustrating the absurdity of Darlene's position. We do not choose to. In fact we ask her to end her "observations" and join us to create for all our children a beginning not just a center. So that when our children leave our centers it will be necessary to rebuild the entire educational system to fit them—instead of "modifying" them to fit the school system.

Maureen & Joe Killen

Many thanks to Cornel, Joanne, Frank, George, and all the Bobs at PhotoText.

The Next Issue of The Richmond Times will be September 29, 1972