

Family housing changes spark mixed responses

By Bob Waite
Emerald Reporter

While Westmoreland resident David Collette has no problem with the possibility of gay or lesbian neighbors, resident Jenny Wu does not like it.

Lesbian and gay couples with children may now live in Westmoreland and Amazon student housing, as University administrators changed resident's marital status requirements this summer.

University administrators initiated the change when a heterosexual couple was served an eviction notice from Westmoreland last year because the two were not married.

Eviction proceedings against the couple were held while the policy was reviewed, and withdrawn after the policy was changed, said Dan Williams, University vice president for administration.

The statement, "Single parents with children may have another adult reside in the unit to assist with child care responsibilities and share expenses," was added to the eligibility policy.

Noting that Stanford University has extended spousal rights to gay and lesbian couples, Sarah Douglas, associate professor of computer information science, said the University is lagging behind as a national leader in civil rights issues.

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Photo by Andre Kanier

Nick Forrester, a student at the Child Care and Development Center for University students' children, tries his hand at painting.

School cares for students' kids

By Bob Waite
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A school filled with one- to three-year-old children crying, laughing and singing songs can provide a vivid and visual explanation of where some of the student incidental fees are going.

While the children's parents go to college, the toddlers receive care and development from teachers at the new toddler center at the Westmoreland student housing complex.

Student voters approved a 1989 IFC fee increase ballot measure to provide a new Child Care and Development Center school. Last spring, students approved 80 cents more in inci-

dental fees per term to pay for state mandated wage increases for CCDC teachers, including staff at the new school.

"We are very grateful to the University students," Donna Franklin, assistant CCDC coordinator, says of the IFC ballot votes.

The CCDC serves University student's and faculty's children from ages 15 months to six years, Franklin says.

The new toddler center opened at the beginning of this term.

The driving force creating the need for expanded child care facilities is changing student demographics. The average age of students is climbing and there are more women,

said Dennis Reynolds, university child care coordinator.

The initiator of the new school was a Public Policy Planning and Management graduate student who wrote a proposal for the new center as a course project. Westmoreland tenants took the proposal to Reynolds, who took it to the Incidental Fee Committee, which allocates funds to student projects.

"I started working for CCDC several years ago as a work-study student," says teacher Pam McGraw.

McGraw says she liked children but she did not expect child care to become her educational and career emphasis then. Today she has both an education and a career, and says that she is very happy.

Books, toys, tables, posters, a kitchen and bathrooms inside the care center are surrounded by a manicured lawn with play facilities outside the school — formerly a student apartment — which shares the fenced play ground with the pre-school next door.

The Westmoreland pre-school is only a few years old. Before it was built, Westmoreland parents had to drive their children to one of the other five CCDC schools near or on campus.

A teacher cuddles a crying girl, who does not speak English, at the toddler school.

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