



Is "the medium the message" here? President Dineen accepts a donation of cameras and equipment from, far left, John Douglas, president of Editel Productions. On the right, Norman Dann of Editel and John Webster, director of the University's audio-visual service look on. Mr. Webster hopes the equipment will soon serve all areas, including extension services and student productions.

Women's Lib

By DEBRA and JAQUI

When Women's Liberation talks about Day Care Centres we're not talking about high priced baby-sitting or professional teachers who have all the answers. We're not talking about centres that make profits for their investors or that are part of the government run chain. We ARE talking about co-operative centres, run by parents, and subsidized by the government for a neighborhood, by a factory for its workers or by an apartment building for its occupants.

In a parent-controlled centre, parents need not feel that they are handing their children over to someone else to care for but, instead, that they are part of a community which, as a community, is caring for its children, theirs included. Where one or both parents have flexible working hours they can actively work in the centre. Where they do not, they can serve the centre in any one of a number of supportive ways: cleaning, organizing, building equipment. But the main point is that all parents involved collectively decide what kind of care they wish their children to receive.

We find that given a community environment, not only do children's relationships with each other become more important to their development, but children also learn to relate to adults in a more meaningful way. Instead of a clinging dependence on one or two parents, children learn that other adults can be relied on to look after their needs. They learn that they can have adult friends who are not their parents. As a result they are more sure of themselves, less concerned about security, more capable of autonomy, more aware of the world going on around them. This also makes a child's relationship with his or her parents less strained and allows a mother and father to feel more relaxed and capable of enjoying their child and other children. The mother's and father's realization, on the other hand, that others do care about their children, that others can have as warm and productive a relationship with them as they can, does much to overcome the feelings of guilt and anxiety they frequently encounter when faced with the need to put their children in the care of others.

Such a co-operative is presently operating in the Co-op Residence for married students and staff. Enrollment is limited to children of building occupants, since the Co-op subsidizes the center by providing a rent free bedroom apartment. One full-time teacher is hired and the rest of the work is volunteer.

A co-operative day care center is, of course, for those parents who want the responsibility of cleaning the center, including towels, sheets, dirty diaper pails, floors, etc. as well as having a say in the philosophy of education. Because of parent co-operation fees can be as low as \$12 a month (daily hot lunches included) depending on how much time a parent can contribute and children under the usual minimum of 2 years can be accepted.

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