

Centre's director says

Child care excellent despite poor facilities . . .

By SUE COOPER

In spite of temporary facilities, the children at the York Day Care Centre are well looked after, according to centre director Maria DeWit.

Since the Centre is now split into three locations, in the Administrative Studies Building and two Graduate Residences, planning activities is a little difficult. But this problem will be alleviated Sept. 20, when new facilities will become available in Atkinson College.

Children enrolled in the day care centre may choose from several activities, including toys, books, art or free play. Nap time and dinner time are the only strictly scheduled activities for the day. In the infant section, the programme is designed to follow the child's schedule at home as closely as possible.

According to administration spokesman John Becker, the university has been helpful to the Centre whenever possible, providing payroll services and subsidies in return for rent, and was quick to provide extra space in the Administrative Studies building when it was needed. Despite the scattered locations, the children have not been shuffled from building to building, but have remained in their respective sections according to age group.

During the past few years, the Centre has incurred a debt of \$16,000, which the staff hopes to decrease somewhat by sponsoring a concert featuring Bill Root, Ian Scott and the Amazing Grace. The concert will be held Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. in Curtis Lecture Hall "L" and tickets can be purchased in the bookstore, the Poster Shop or from Maria DeWit in the Administrative Studies building.

The day-care centre still has three openings in the 2½ to 3½ year age range. Interested parents should contact Maria DeWit, 667-3273.

but Mother disagrees

Marjorie Maiolami, a disillusioned mother who until recently kept her child in the Day Care Centre, has expressed views that differ strongly from the operations and principles of the Centre.

In an interview, Maiolami said she removed her child from York's day-care programme and placed him in a commercial centre after discovering that as far as she was concerned the day care accommodations were far from adequate.

"The move to the Administrative Studies building was decided on two weeks ago," commented Maiolami, "and the parents weren't told. The Day-care organizers knew six weeks ago that the centre's new accommodations in Atkinson wouldn't be ready until Sept. 20. But they accepted the 100 children anyway, because they wanted the money."

"They knew that people with kids in day-care couldn't wait until Sept. 20, because that would mean they'd have to stay out from work or classes for three weeks."

"They can't go to class and let their child sit in the corner and wait. So they would have enrolled their children in commercial centres, and the day-care would have lost that money."

Maiolami added, "It's not surprising that the Centre has run up a deficit. If they wanted something and didn't have the money, they just sent the bill to accounting and it was paid for. That was stupid on Accounting's part, but they kept paying, and the deficit rose."

Maiolami told Excalibur that the size the \$16,000 deficit is hard to explain, since the Centre has increased its fees by 75 per cent over the last two years. The Day Care Centre charges \$75 a month, and requests four hours of volunteer work from each parent, while the average commercial centre charges \$85 a month, and requires no voluntary assistance from the parents. So the fees aren't low by comparison with commercial costs," Maiolami said.

The benefit concert featuring Bill Root, Ian Craig and the Amazing Grace, being presented to help recoup the Centre's deficit, was initially rejected by Centre director Maria DeWit, Maiolami disclosed.

"Bill Root dreamed up the benefit concert on his own, had the tickets printed, and was told by the Centre that they didn't want his help, that they didn't want anything to do with the concert. It was only a week ago that they finally agreed to take the proceeds and give their name to it."



Despite scattered facilities, Day care kids play through the day.

Women's Workshop will increase career awareness

By ANDREA FREEDMAN

Women's Workshop, a new programme designed to give the women of York university a chance to speak their minds, has been initiated this year by the Counselling and Development Centre.

The programme is not an effort to produce a campus filled with Germaine Greers, but an attempt to allow women to speak their minds in an informal gathering among other women.

Nancy Steinberg, 26, one of the organizers of the workshop and a staff member of the CDC, says that while she is a personal crusader rather than a political one, politically-minded women are more than welcome. Various news articles will be supplied, and informal gatherings will give women a chance to discuss issues on their minds.

It is possible that seminars may take place with guest speakers, but this depends both on the interest of the participants and available financial support.

If all goes well, these informal coffee hours will produce women interested in forming awareness groups, following somewhat the same pattern as encounter groups.

"The only way in which the women will be divided up for these groups will be according to their age," said Dr. Sandra Pyke, member of the psychology faculty and CDC staff member. "The program is open to women of

all ages because it concerns them all.

"For example, we would like to make them more aware of career opportunities open to them. Many women underestimate the number of potential jobs, and choose careers that they don't want." Women are invited to the informal coffee hours from 12 to 4 p.m., Tuesdays and Wednesdays in Room 148 of the Behavioural Science Building.

IGA doubles profit

Not everyone loses because of the current escalating food prices.

For the 28 weeks ending August 11, M. Loeb Ltd., owners of IGA stores, and Horne and Pitfield Foods, more than doubled the profit made at the same time last year.

This year, Loeb made \$1,080,300 compared to last year's \$465,000. Loeb's new, highly lucrative subsidiary, Horne and Pitfield also more than doubled its profits in the same period. Horne and Pitfield profited \$461,599 this year compared to \$221,729 last year.

As well as a controlling interest in IGA, Loeb also owns several drug stores, including the Shoppers City chain, and other food and drug related industries.

Liaison - not recruitment**No hard sell to lure students, official says**

By MICHAEL FORMAN

"This office has never allowed its desire to enroll students to stand in the way of their best interests, and you can hold me to that . . . If any pressure were brought to bear in that direction, I would resign tomorrow."

Criticizing last week's Excalibur cartoon, Larry Davies, Assistant Director of Admissions, explicitly stated that York has never employed hard-sell recruitment techniques. Davies was upset with cartoonist Peter Hsu's depiction of York pirates "shanghaiing" students into school.

Davies, a York graduate, assumed the position of Liaison Officer this year. Though his official title falls within the admissions department, he described his office's responsibility as one of information or liaison, not one of recruitment. He admitted quite openly that the office attempted to attract students to York by the simple means of distributing information concerning the university.

"All the universities have to keep in step with liaison. How else are we going to survive?"

Davies explained that liaison work was carried on by all universities, with York falling into the 'soft sell' category of making the facilities at York known to the high school students, allowing them to make an educated choice.

"York has always employed liaison, even during capacity years." Davies explained that publicity concerning enrolment problems had tainted the image of liaison, with some becoming suspicious that administration anxiety had spurred recruitment practices.

He pointed out that some Ontario universities may have employed hard sell during the last couple of lean years, but that York had tried to avoid this.

"My position is a simple one . . . of information."

The Admissions office budgets Davies' office \$19,000 a year for printing and distribution of material, travelling to provincial high schools, and answering students' questions, and running an annual symposium open to students across the province. Printed material ranges from admissions information given to counsellors, guidance to a slick pamphlet directed to high school juniors having difficulty deciding whether university is the place for them — York in particular.

Davies explained that since most students' questions were concerned with admission requirements, the partnership between liaison and admissions, formed this year, seemed sensible.

One of the office's proudest achievements has been the summer symposium, a programme which invites all Ontario students to submit a project of their choice. Of the projects received, the students responsible for those judged best are invited to present them at the admissions — sponsored symposium. The winners are transported to Toronto, where the university sees to their comfort during their stay.

When does liaison become recruiting?

"It's a difficult line to draw," admitted Davies. "One must remain objective. Sure, universities need money to survive, but if York isn't right for a student, then it's our mutual disadvantage to have him here."



Larry Davies, liaison officer: "A difficult line to draw."