

## Behind daycare

Finding adequate child care facilities is a real concern to working parents in Halifax. Whether mothers work out of choice or necessity, they must find reliable and competent care for their children.

Choices available to parents are limited to care in a private home, or in a day care centre. Private care has the advantage of a one-to-one relationship, as well as simulating a family environment, a definite asset in a child's early years.

But there are disadvantages as well. Women who care for children in their homes are usually supplementing their family's income, and prefer not to claim the money they receive for income tax purposes. Any parent knows this amount can make a sizeable difference in a taxable income.

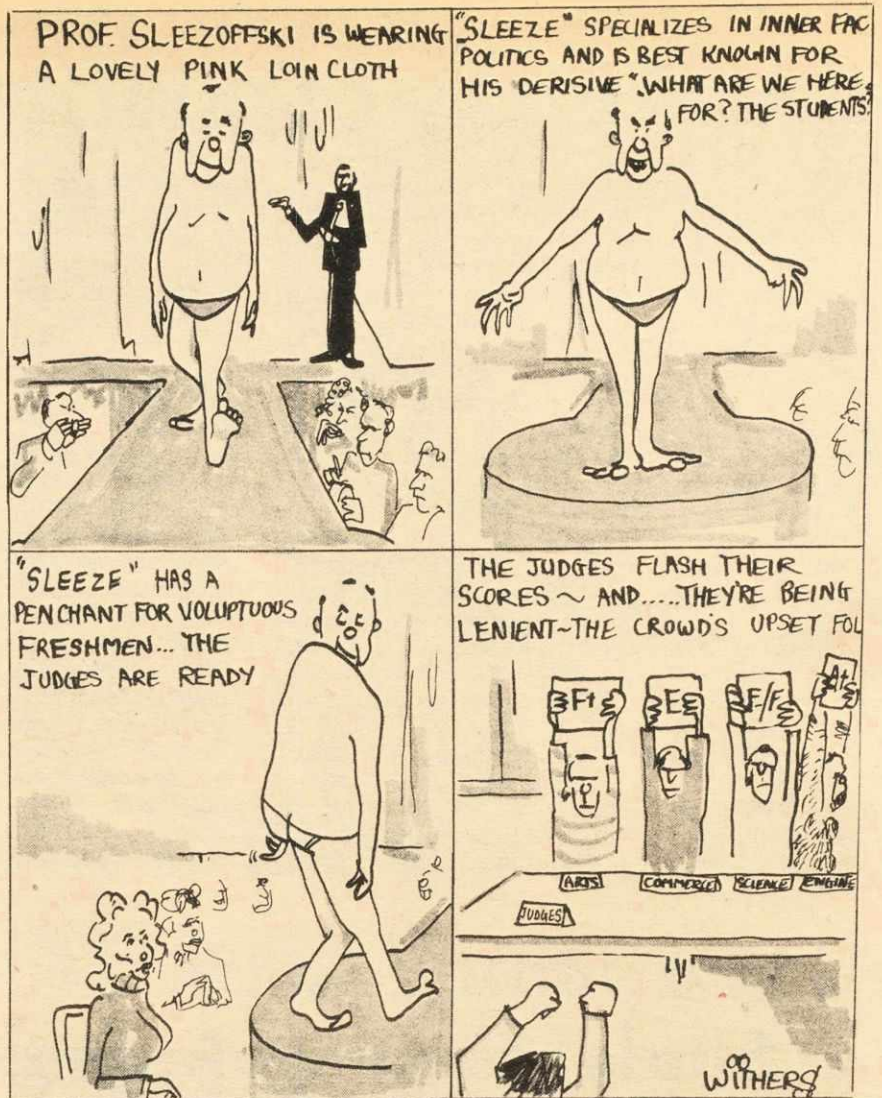
Parents who choose day care facilities have two options. Privately operated centres, which charge between \$30 to \$50 a week, provide the basics of early childhood education, as well as certain extras, such as French or dance instruction. This type of day care caters to a two parent family whose income is large enough to afford such fees.

The remaining day care centers are subsidized by the provincial government. Under

this system, a family applies for subsidization, and after an income assessment, a daily rate is calculated. This rate is applied against the per diem (daily) rate charged by the centre, and the difference is paid by the government. Depending upon income, a family could pay anywhere from a minimum of 25 cents a day (in the case of a single parent with little or no income) to a maximum of \$7.75 a day. This system is definitely the better of the two, as any parent who must take \$35 out of an already low income knows.

There are only ABOUT TWENTY DAY CARE CENTERS in the whole metro and surrounding areas which are subsidized. This space is nowhere adequate. The provincial government is due to release a Task Force report on the Day Care situation in Halifax, and it remains to be seen if the problems will be remedied as promised.

If nothing is done, parents are forced to choose more expensive alternatives, or to remain out of the work force altogether. This last alternative could perhaps be more acceptable to government officials, for it would keep women at home and out of the unemployment statistics.



## COURSE EVALUATION Letters

### W-5 comment

Dear Gazette:

We wrote this letter primarily to ask for a little space in the newspaper to state our point of view, a protest to a portion of a T.V. program, W-5, on September 30 which was about foreign students. We are not here to defend foreign students, but we believe that if those people broadcasted a program and knew that it could affect public opinions, then they should be more objective and unbiased.

We watched W-5 on September 30 and were really upset afterwards. We could imagine what people would think after they had seen the program; foreign students, a menace to Canadians and Canadian universities.

The program began with a Ms. X who had been rejected by the School of Pharmacy of U of T. Then the hostess of the program, Helen Hutchinson, claimed that it was because a substantial percentage of enrolment was taken up by foreign students, a lot of whom were Chinese from Hong Kong.

Then there was a lavish exhibition of activities and faces of foreign students all of which and whom, curiously enough, were Chinese. We thought that the category foreign students included Americans, Europeans, Latin Americans, etc., etc. Now we know that we were wrong.

Helen Hutchinson went on to state certain supposed facts which were quite unfounded. For example, she claimed that foreign students i.e. orientals could readily change to landed immigrant status after they had com-

pleted their study in Canada. If she had done a little research herself, she would have known that this was not true, at least not in the case of Chinese foreign students from South-East Asia, especially Hong Kong.

Most of all, she picked Toronto, which has the largest population of Chinese immigrants in Canada. Most of them are already naturalized citizens or were Canadian born. Then, in the program, under the scrutiny of the camera, of course a high percentage of Chinese faces showed up. But most of those were not foreign students. Helen Hutchinson did not make a distinction between foreign students and Chinese immigrants on the whole. Moreover, most professional schools such as medicine, pharmacy, do not accept foreign students.

Helen Hutchinson's message is loud and clear. If you are a foreign student and you are white, you're O.K. You are not conspicuous and you will not be the scapegoat.

Yours truly,  
Alfred Tang  
Paul Chan  
Hector Wong

### Budget

To the Gazette:

In response to an article contained on pages 10 and 11 of the October 11 issue of the Gazette, there are several items mentioned in this article that warrant clarification.

First and foremost, the subject under discussion in the article was the audit of the financial statements for the fiscal year ending April 30, 1979, and not the budget for which I am responsible to

administer.

Secondly, regarding the DALPLEX agreement, I explained to Mr. Regan at the time all of the arrangements made by the Sampson/Mancini administration as found in the council files.

The discrepancy between budget and actual figures is due in large part to the fact that the budget figures recommended by the 1977-78 treasurer were amended by council; experience since then has shown the error of those amendments.

I trust these few comments will eliminate any misunderstanding which resulted from the article.

Sincerely,  
Nancy Tower  
Treasurer  
Dalhousie Student Union



## the Dalhousie Gazette

The Dalhousie Gazette, Canada's oldest college newspaper, is the weekly publication of the Dalhousie Student Union members, and is a founding member of Canadian University Press.

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