

nice place to visit but...

# Tom's trip

by Alex Burton

He's baaaack!

Tom Digby, the former Vice-President External of the DSU, has returned to Halifax after a short hiatus in Upper Canada.

Digby, who left last week for Oueen's University to study law, returned to Halifax only three days later. He had been second on the waiting list for Dal law school but was forced by time constraints to accept the Queen's offer and resign as VP External. An opening at Dal has allowed for his

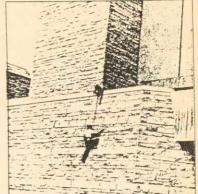
Digby said he was "ecstatic" about his reincarnation as a Dal

The position of VP External is

resignation was official and DSU advertisements in the Gazette reopening nominations demand that there be "procedural fairness", says DSU President Dave Shannon. Digby is the only candidate to have submitted his name for nomination, but nominations are open until September

While admitting to be happy at Digby's return, Shannon, who is acting as interim VP External, is quick to note his complete neutrality concerning the upcoming nominations.

Priorities for this year's VP External and the external committee include the development and dissemination of a survey on



student finances at Dal which Shannon describes as "very important" in terms of future tuition fees and government policy on higher education. Also on the agenda for the external committee are the issues of daycare, Via Rail budget cuts, tuition fee increases, and the National Week

# waiting in line Search for child care near impossible

by Michele Thibeau

For university students in Nova Scotia subsdized child care can be next to impossible to find

The Students' Unions of Nova Scotia (SUNS) recently held a press conference at Mount St. Vincent University to give their attention and support to the issue. They are currently involved in completing a "needs assessment" survey to find out exactly what the situation is.

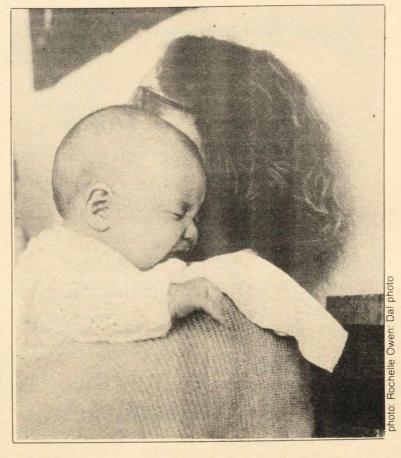
Dalhousie University is the "best equipped to meet the need of on-campus affordable child care," according to Lara Morris, chair of SUNS. "This means a 14 to 20-month waiting list to register.'

There are 155 spaces available at Dalhousie, 85 of which are eligible for subsidy. One quarter of these go to children whose parents are associated with the university. By the length of the waiting list, it is evident that this is not meeting the needs of our students.

At the Mount, where 48 to 52 per cent of students are "mature and non-traditional students," says Lynn Isenor, chair of the SUNS Child Care Committee, "the campus provides no affordable child care.

"There is a Child Study Centre on campus but it has only one subsidized space which is awarded to the highest academic achieving student in need. The cost of this facility is \$91 per week, which is too high for students," Isenor says

Last year some students were forced to take their children with them to class, until Dr. Martha Westwater, an English professor, and the parents formed a volunteer drop-in babysitting service. There is no space available this year for such a service, but there is



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October 12, 1989 Message from the Dapartment of Advanced Education and Training, Province of Nova Scotia.

a small room which is holding three infants at \$25 per week.

Naomi Martin, External VP at the Mount student union, and Lynn Isenor are setting up a joint SU/university/alumni child care committee to conduct a feasibility

study to be completed by the end of this school year. But for this year, lack of space remains a problem. Students would set up their own volunteer drop-in babysitting service if the university could find space

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Thursday, September 21 Dalhousie Gazette