

# Daycare Celebrates Anniversary

The Students' Union and Community Day Care Centre located on the HUB mall will be holding an open house this Sunday, Sept. 18, to celebrate the fifth anniversary of its opening.

The centre cares for 60 children between the ages of two and a half and five years. The majority of these are the children of students (80 per cent), many of whom are single parents. The remainder are drawn from the community at large and from non-academic staff.

Director Diane Dalley feels the centre should be at least twice the present size to serve an area with the population density of the university campus (a daytime population equal to that of Red Deer). She consistently has at least 200 names on her waiting list.

The S.U. centre was the first of its kind; that is, a subsidized, non-parent co-op to be built in Canada, and has served as an example for other universities, such as Simon Fraser which has just spent a million dollars on a 150-child centre.

Originally financed by a \$60,000 interest-free loan from the Students' Union, which was used to build the interior facilities, the Board of Governors has offered financial assistance over the years, as has

the non-academic staff association. The University built and maintains the outdoor playground on the east side of HUB. Operating and building costs are subsidized by three levels of government with the municipal contributing 20 per cent, the provincial 30 per cent, and the Federal Canada Assistance Program matching that amount (50 per cent). Parent fees are assessed on a sliding scale depending on gross income and vary from \$10 to \$200 per month.

There was a lot of conservative opposition to overcome before the centre, which was first talked about in 1966, finally opened on Sept. 18, 1972.

Despite the high cost, Ms. Dalley states there are definite advantages to being located on campus.

"The centre is a family affair with parent involvement in the decision making process as Board members and, more directly, in the classroom with their children, being actively encouraged."

The location facilitates this involvement. As well, the children have had the use of some of the university facilities. Several departments on campus as well as the NASA have provided assistance and special



Photo - Shirley Glew

programs.

Government policy on daycare, whether Social or Conservative, has been almost non-existent. However, this should change as a result of the daycare task force report presented to Minister of Social

Services and Community Health, Helen Hunley. Ms. Dalley expects to see legislation before the House this fall pushing for greater quality care for all children in the province.

The open house this Sunday is from 2:30 to 5:00 p.m. and will

include displays, a cake cutting ceremony, and refreshments. It is designed as a grand reunion of staff, board members, children and families associated with the centre over the past five years. Interested members of the public are also invited to attend.

## Lukat...

### Lockout essential

VP Services, Manfred Lukat, told the Gateway Wednesday he believed this summer's lock-out of CUPE employees was "essential to the Student's Union". Lukat further stated that he thought some of CUPE's demands were "ridiculous" and cited the proposed abolition of the grid system as a case-in-point.

Dressed in matching khaki shirt and trousers for the informal interview held in his office, the controversial Mr. Lukat responded good-naturedly to the criticism directed at him in last week's Gateway editorial.

Asked how he reacted to the editor's suggestion of a "chameleon-like presence in Lukat's DNA", he said, "I had to laugh, really. When you take as many drama courses as I do, you get used to role changes."

The biggest role change for Manfred Lukat, of course, has been from last year's CRAP presidential candidate to this year's VP Services under Jay Spark. Asked why he had changed apparent allegiances, Lukat said, "I still see a lot of crap in SU politics but at least now I am in the position of doing something positive about that".

When questioned further on the implications of the Gateway editorial, Lukat affirmed that he had been given full voting privileges at the time of the student lock-out even though his appointment had not been duly ratified, but insisted that the circumstances were "both unusual and confusing." His support of the lock-out, he said,

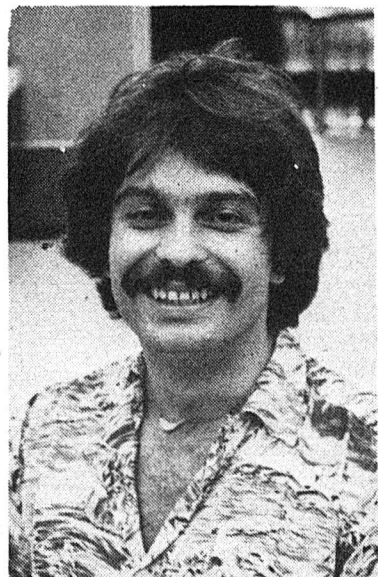
was an expression of his belief in its necessity.

Asked if there was any truth to the rumour, also mentioned in the Gateway editorial, that he and Jay Spark had been in collaboration even before CRAP had been formed, Mr. Lukat registered a definite "no comment."

Manfred claims that his only regret about accepting the job are that its duties often infringe on his social existence. "People are always coming on to you about something even when you're supposedly 'off the job'."

Always a colorful character, if sometimes clashing with the Sparkian gray of this year's SU, Lukat wanted it mentioned that he regularly skate-boards to work. "Also," he said in a final quote-making remark, "I'd like to go on record as supporting the ALCC's stand in favor of decriminalizing marijuana."

So be it.



vp services Manfred Lukat



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