

planned such as afterschool drop-off, satellite facilities and weekend and evening programs.

One of the goals of the daycare is to minimize age specific segregation which will allow children from various ages to interact under "home-like" conditions and allowed for normal sharing and learning opportunities which conventional daycares may lack. As well, the working committee decided to build into the daycare spaces for children to play alone. These solitary spaces are almost entirely missing from most daycare, but as everyone knows, sometimes a place of privacy can be essential to one's mental health - and it really isn't any different for kids!

The daycare has to conform to the N.B. Daycare Regulations so is limited to a maximum of 60 children. These spaces will be divided between U.N.B. and St. Thomas. U.N.B. will have 54 spaces (90%) and St. Thomas will have 6 spaces (10%). Among the U.N.B. spaces 32 spaces (60%) will be reserved for students and 22 (40%) will be reserved for faculty and staff. There will be 6 spaces reserved for infants and 10 spaces reserved for school age children included in the 60 spaces.

It is also in the plans to provide for ongoing interaction with the early education department and other interested faculties through integrated observation areas and ongoing cooperation. This daycare will not only be an excellent facility for our children but a place of learning for the whole community. It should be noted that all such involvement

of the academic community would have to be approved by the University Ethics Committee, the daycare board and the parents of the children.

Perhaps one of the smallest and yet most significant aspects of this daycare can be found in the mission statement. The mission statement affirms that the dignity of the children is always to be respected and that fostering the harmony of our multicultural society is to be one of the daycare's primary goals. The mission statement also confirms that daycare is to be a place of excellence in learning, both academic and social.

The daycare will be situated at the top of the hill on Montgomery Street beside McLeod House on the site where the Muskeg Building is presently located. The projected

The hours of operation are going to be set to meet the needs of the university community... innovations are planned such as afterschool drop-off, satellite facilities and weekend and evening programs

opening date is in September 1994. The projected cost will be approximately \$341,000. At this point in time the \$247,500 contributed by U.N.B. and St. Thomas means that *the daycare still has to raise \$93,500.*



Fundraising for the new daycare began during Winter Term '93 when Jonathan Keirstead, president of the Forestry Association (far right) donated the proceeds of the Forestry Association's Monte Carlo Night to Day Care Committee representatives Jennie Robertson (left), Committee chairperson, and former treasurer David Townsend (centre).

The University will loan the daycare the money which will be paid back over a 20-25 year term. However, the more money we can raise over the next few months the less the loan will cost. The committee is very concerned about this money as *we have a commitment to channel profits into subsidizing the student's fees for the daycare.* Any loan payments will substantially reduce our ability to do so.

Various parts of the university community have indicated their support, both morally and financially. A.U.N.B.T. and the UNB Student Union have given their strong commitment to the project. This year's graduating class are urged to consider the daycare playground as this year's grad project, an idea which

received considerable support last year.

Of course there is still much to be done. The committee is currently negotiating a lease agreement with the administration and finalizing plans for the facility and site development. Look for the building to go up in the spring and summer of 1994.

As well, fundraising is a big project. All those who are interested in becoming involved should do so as soon as possible. Now that plans are really solidifying there is even more of a need for volunteers to get involved. Those interested are urged to contact current chairperson Jennie Robertson by leaving a message (with your name and a number where you can be reached) at the Law Faculty (453-4669).

