

# Child care facility at Dal

by Linda Stewart

"I would bust my tail" to assist in establishing a child care facility at Dalhousie, says Professor L. Vagianos, Vice-President, University Services. He stated that he was approached last year by a student interested in setting up a centre, and offered to find space on campus when a viable plan was proposed. He heard nothing more. He says that a group which has its funding, clientele, staff, etc. planned would be in a good position to make arrangements to utilize University space.

S. Brown, Director of Day Care Services for the province of Nova Scotia, says that a facility at Dalhousie would be eligible for public funding and subsidies, provided it fulfilled basic criteria required for licensing, mainly fire and sanitation regulations. The facility would require a Community Board to direct it, composed of 'resource members of the Community' — lawyers, physicians, public health nurses, social workers, parents, any interested person with knowledge or experience to offer. This board would have to be approved by Day Care Services to qualify the Child Care Facility for funding. Details such as number of staff, ratio of children to staff, duties, salaries, qualifications, etc. would be laid out in a 'little constitution' drawn up by the Board and parents.

The Child Care Facility first would receive a 'Starter Subsidy' of \$100 per child care space. Parents are eligible for subsidy in child care fees, ranging from a full subsidy for families with a net income of \$4500 per year or less (a nominal fee of \$0.25 per day for one child; \$0.40 for two, and \$0.50 for three and up is charged). From there, a sliding scale comes into effect. Parents pay increasing amounts until the cut-off point of \$9,000 net income per annum. These parents pay the full fee of \$6.55 per day.

Mr. Brown cautioned that there were two limitations on an establishment meant for Dalhousie students and staff. In order to be eligible for public funding, the centre must be open to the public, as a community, rather than a University resource. There is no legislation covering child care outside daytime hours, so if evening

students or shift workers required child care for their children, no funding or subsidization would be available. Mr. Brown stated that the Centre would qualify for funding during the daylight hours, and merely operate without government financing after hours, if a full service facility was required.

A publicly funded child care facility offers a great opportunity particularly to student parents, who usually fall into a low income category. A comparison with two privately funded centres close to the University, which have space available immediately, shows that these centres must charge \$160 per month for their service, as opposed to government subsidized institutions, where a lower income person may pay a nominal fee, a fraction of the fee, or \$6.55 per day (\$137.55 per month), which is the full unsubsidized rate.



Dal Photo / DeLorey

## UPDATE CALENDAR

continued from page 10

### Next Week

**Dalhousie Student Christian Movement**  
Canoe trip October 22-4 at Sherbrooke Lake, Lunenburg County. For information call Dave Brown 422-4550 or John Kearney 429-4522.

The Dal N.D.P. Association is sponsoring the showing of the BBC documentary of life in Greece under a dictatorship from 1967-1974—"Greece, the Seven Black Years" on Thursday, October 21 at 8 p.m. in the **Auditorium of the Killam Library**. Everyone is welcome.

**New Brunswick Student Aid** officials at Dalhousie 26-27 October. **Appointments through the Awards Office.**

**University Mass** held in the SUB Sundays 7:00 p.m. Lounge 314, and Wednesday 12:30 in Room 316, SUB.

continued from page 2

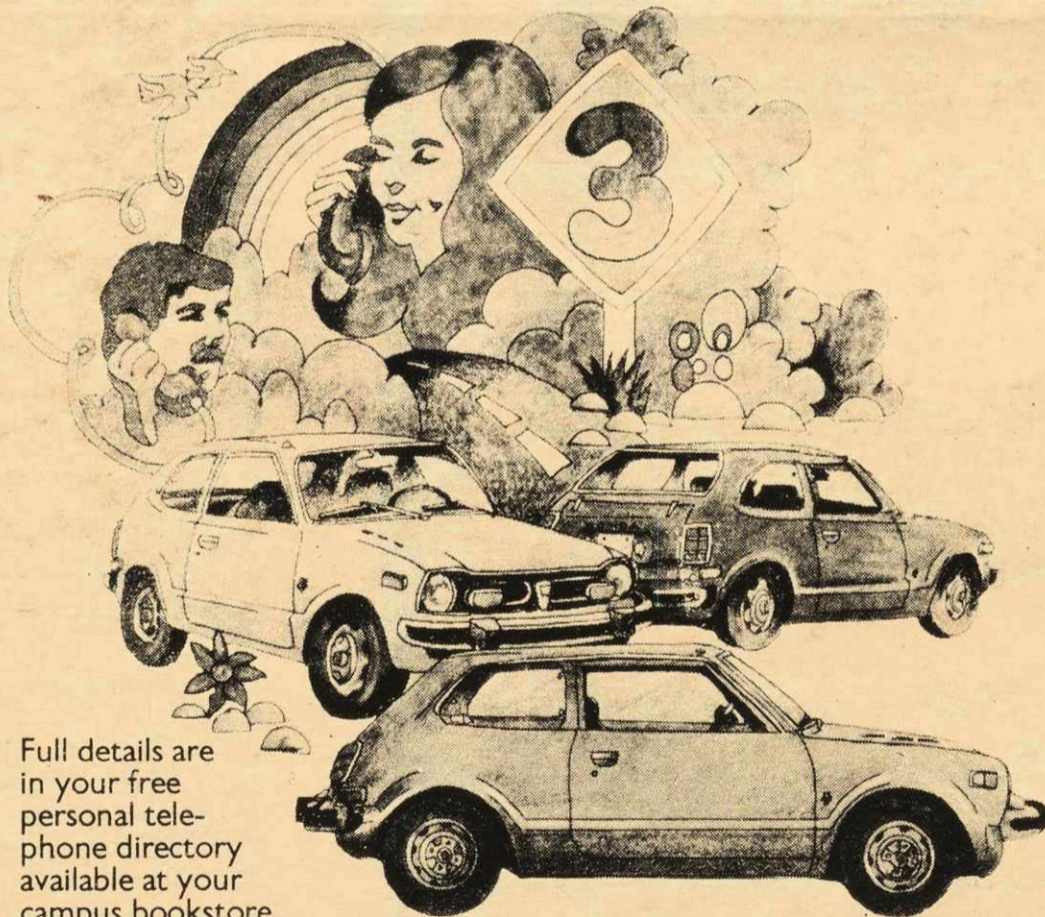
professional students.

Definition of what constitutes a minimum of activity on NSD has been lacking from the national and most of the provincial co-ordinating committees, although the manual notes that Alberta campuses will hold "two-hour student assemblies." As for individual campuses, the manual states that plans for Nov. 9 range from a partial to complete cancellation or boycott of classes, with a series of workshops, forums and seminars.

The manual does not provide a lengthy discussion on what should follow the "day of decision", but notes that one of the day's purposes is to decide what work students will carry on around these issues during the rest of the year."

"November 9 is approaching more quickly than we like to think, but Canadian students have fifty years of common achievement to demonstrate that when committed to an activity, we produce," the manual concludes encouragingly.

## WIN ONE OF THREE HONDA CIVICS



Full details are in your free personal telephone directory available at your campus bookstore.

## IN THE LONG DISTANCE SWEEPSTAKES.

Trans-Canada Telephone System 