## Local daycare providers concerned about JK plan

By FANNIE SUNSHINE

The Champion

Transportation and professional development (PD) days are some of the issues troubling daycare supervisor Dianne Kayess regarding the implementation of JK classes, scheduled to begin in September.

"Many parents will be bringing their kids back to the daycare after junior kindergarten classes are over," said Ms. Kayess, supervisor of Rainbow Village Daycare Centre.

"It's going to be impossible to transport all the children from the school to the daycare. School holidays are another concern for us because we won't have enough room to accommodate all the children. As a day care this isn't ideal for us."

The Halton District School Board approved a two-year imple-

mentation plan for JK Wednesday to be offered in an all-day, alternate-day format at public schools in Halton.

Half of Halton's public schools will offer the JK program for this coming school year. The remainder of the schools will offer the program beginning in September, 2002.

the nursery," said Julie Mattell, president of the board of directors of Milton Community Nursery School.

"Some of the children will stay for the full two years and others will stay only one. With Junior Kindergarten, we may be losing the children in the second year."

But one of her biggest concerns is the student to teacher ratio in the schools compared to that of the nursery.

"In the nursery the ratio of children to a teacher is six to one. In a school setting dealing with junior kindergarten, it's 23 to one. It's a

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long day to be in a class with one teacher. Can they get the appropriate care they would receive at the nursery?"

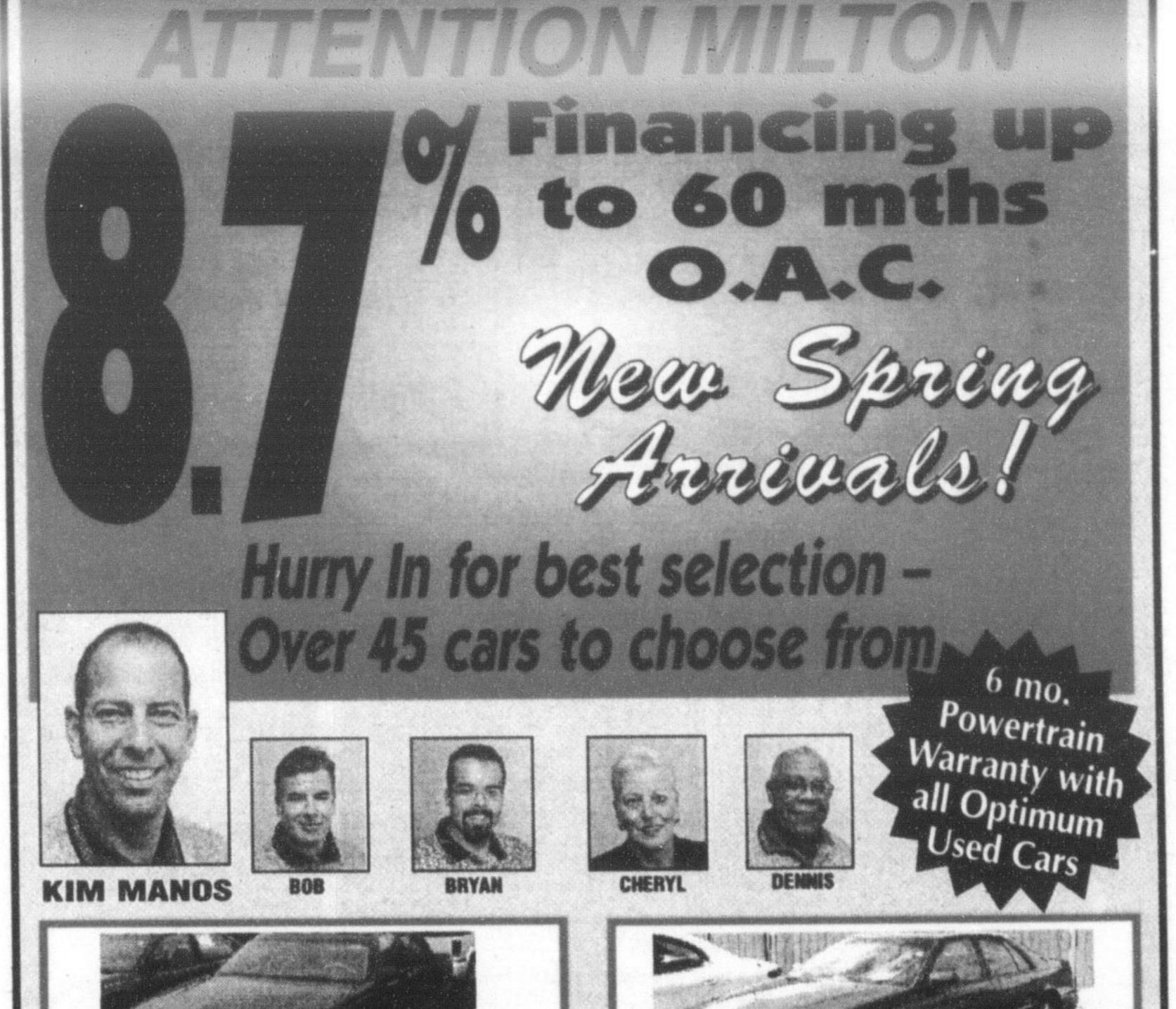
And the all-day, alternate-day schedule didn't sit well with her either.

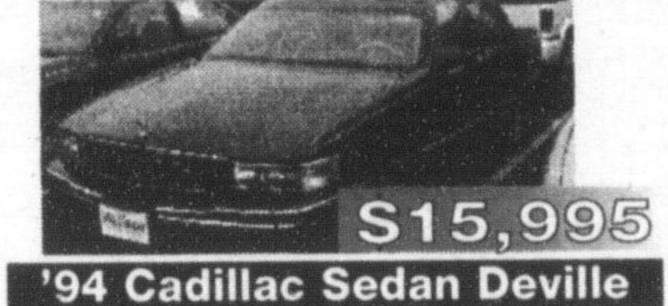
"It's a long time to be in an institute type setting," Ms. Mattell said. "A lot of them (children) won't go "We offer a two-year program at home for lunch. This program will also affect programs at the Leisure Centre, for example. If a skating program is held on a Monday or a Wednesday, those children won't be able to take part in the activi-

> A public meeting is scheduled at the nursery April 11 at 7 p.m. to discuss with parents the differences between nursery school and JK.

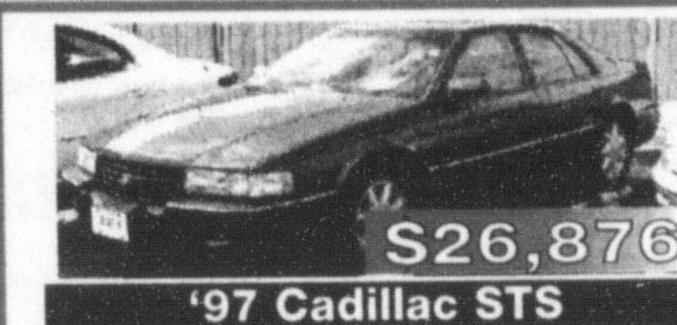
> Heather Jackson, executive director of Milton Community Resource Centre's Nursery School, said JK will have a negative impact on their nursery school programs.

"Our program is for children see JK on page 5

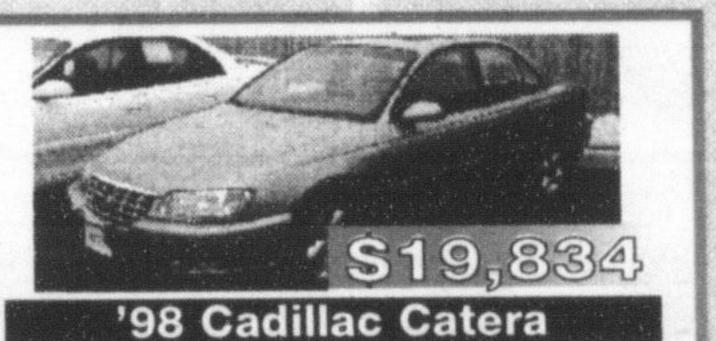




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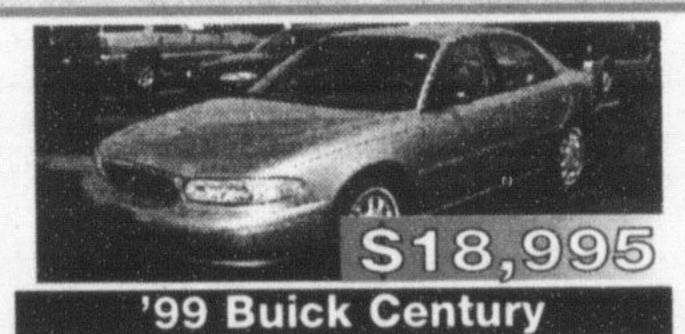
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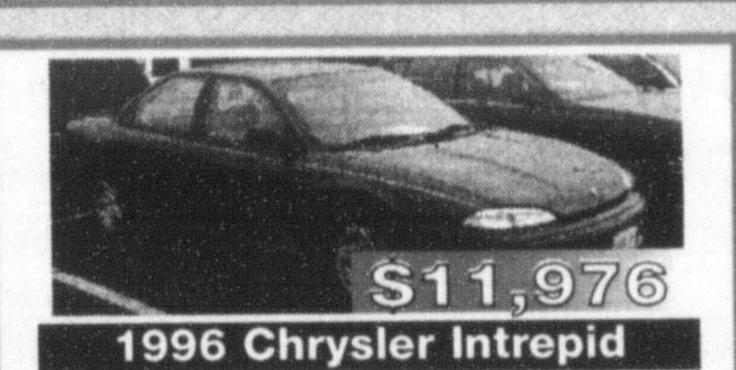
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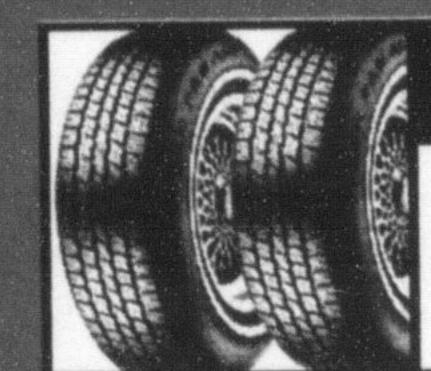
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