

# Tug of war team set

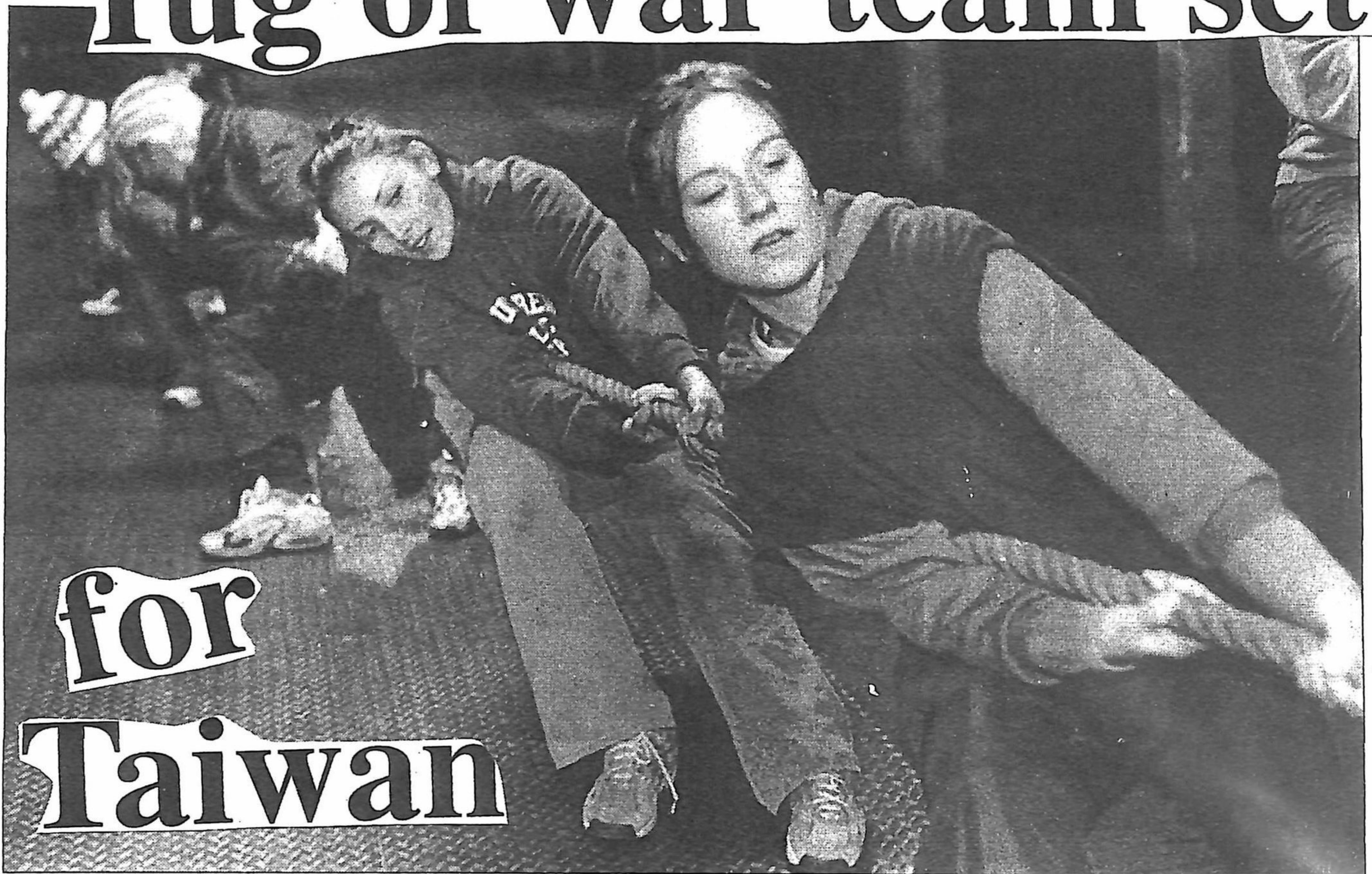


Photo by Elliot Ferguson

Practising in an unheated warehouse, the 13 girls on the Oxford-Zorra tug of war team prepare for their trip to Taiwan in March. 2001

teenage girl, but that's what attracted Michelle Kelly, 18, to the sport.

"(I like it) just because it's an odd sport and I don't know very many

when she pulled with the Huron Park Huskies squad. And, when a friend told her they were putting together a team to go to Taiwan, she figured it would be a good experience.

"I like to meet new people," she said. "I didn't know half of these people (her teammates).

"I'm looking forward to pulling in Taiwan and to seeing Taiwan - the cultural things. I guess it's a really big deal that we're coming."

In fact, the Oxford-Zorra team will be greeted in Taiwan with a parade and a torch-lighting ceremony. But when it comes right down to it, the local girls are going there to win.

"We're expecting some tough competition in Taiwan," said trip organizer Ron Totten, who said he instructed certain Canadian teams to throw matches to the Taiwanese visitors at last year's Highland Games as a gesture of goodwill.

"We might slow down a bit if we're better than the other teams... we're going there to win but, most importantly, we're going to represent Oxford County and Zorra well."

Totten said the group is attempting to raise more than \$33,000 for the trip and is currently sitting at about \$25,000. A spaghetti dinner and silent auction is scheduled for Feb. 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Woodstock Quality Inn. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under.

The girls will also be selling raffles and hope to make \$1,000. Anyone interested in making a donation can contact Totten at 5-4016.