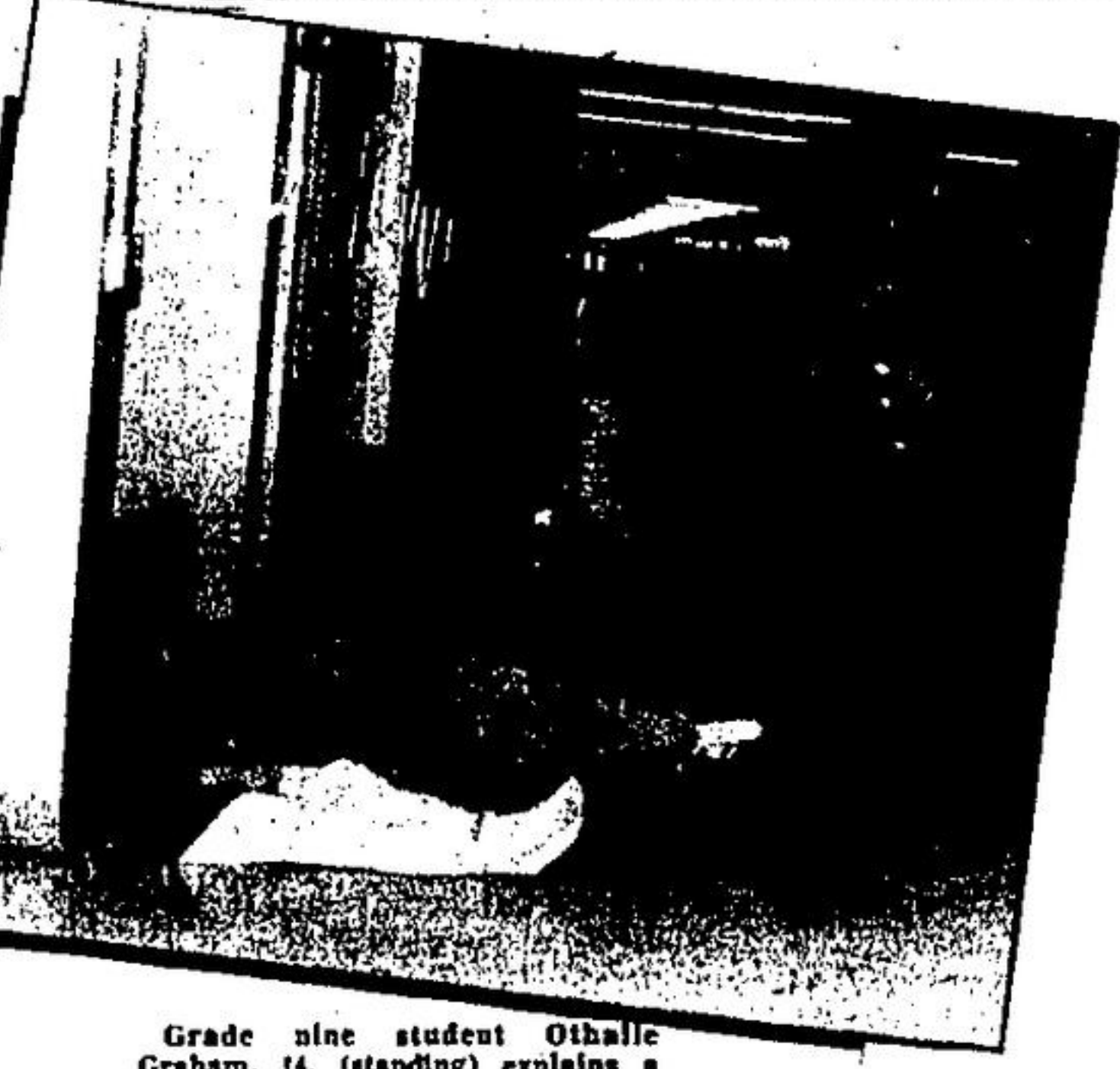




Grade 10 students Laura Corbett, 15, Kathy Harhay, 15, and Gillian Little, 15, practise their wind instruments. Seeing students practising in the halls is not uncommon at the Etobicoke School of the Arts.



Choral Ensemble Leader Barbara Young is flanked by Georgetown students Geoff Tyler (left) and Liz Griffin-Kemshead (right). The trio are in Calgary to take part in the Olympic Arts Festival.



Grade nine student Othello Graham, 14, (standing) explains a scene to her compatriots (left) Lynn Bell, 15, and (right) Michael Lamore, 15. The trio were practising a play for drama class.

Seeking fame at Etobicoke School of Arts

Passion and energy in their search for the stars

By CHERYL MOODER
Herald Staff

Passion and energy. These two words leap to mind when entering the Etobicoke School of the Arts attended by two Georgetown teenagers Geoff Tyler and Liz Griffin-Kemshead.

Geoff, 18, has spent the past five years commuting to the beige brick building at 675 Royal York Road.

His average day starts at 7 a.m. when he begins his 1 1/2 hour sojourn to school, usually arriving home again 12 hours later.

"My whole life is school right now," the Georgetown teenager said. "That is the way I want it to be."

The Etobicoke School of the Arts is a secondary school for young people who desire to develop their artistic skills.

Academic subjects such as biology, math and geography are intertwined with art electives in dance, music, drama and visual arts.

"I have always loved the arts," Geoff said. Ever since Grade 4 he knew he wanted to work on stage.

"I did not realize my real career went until Grade 8," he said.

That career drive has gone uphill since he started at the Etobicoke school in Grade 9 majoring in drama and music theatre.

Although Geoff's goal is to continue in music theatre when he graduates in the spring, he said, "I

do not have ambition to have my name in lights."

He added that although it would be nice to see his name spelled in mega-watts, his aim is to be the best he can be.

After he has experienced centre stage for a while Geoff plans to move back stage.

Already the teenager does a lot of work with make-up for the school's dramatic performances and he has always wanted to get into directing.

Coming to an art school instead of attending a regular high school opened up the world of art to the Georgetown teenager, giving him a much wider palette to choose from.

In Grade 11, Geoff had a million directions he could have gone. "Now I know what I want. My ambition is stronger," he said.

And he knows he will not give up. "Success in myself is more important to me," Geoff said, than the pursuit of money or material things.

And what has the past five years done for the Georgetown resident? "I learned so much about myself... who I am," Geoff said.

"We are a big family. The peer pressure is more to be yourself," Geoff added. "I would not fit in at any other high school."

Sixteen-year-old Liz was fascinated that a school like the Etobicoke one existed.

People who have ambition and



Grade 12 student Suzanne Kalous, 18, works on a tree for the school's performance of the Spanish play Blood Wedding.

know they want to work in the arts all their lives attend the school, she said.

"I sometimes laugh to myself," Liz said when she sees visitors enter the school. "It is a great at-

mosphere."

The school resembles the one in the television program Fame although Liz added students do not get up and dance on the cafeteria tables.

Approximately 500 students from all over the area such as Brampton, Oakville and farther a field attend the school.

Strolling down the music hall the harmony of flutes, clarinets and trumpets practising scales is juxtaposed with the sounds of a rock and roll or jazz band just a-jamming.

The walls are lined with paintings and photographs by art students while pianos are scattered all over the place.

Turn one corner and a trio of students are practising cellos while around another a group of students act out scenes of a play.

"I could praise the school for so long," Liz said. "I love it."

The Grade 11 student rises at six every morning to catch a ride to Etobicoke with a Georgetown commuter.

Depending on whether or not she has rehearsals, Liz can make it back home between 5:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Liz, who is majoring in drama and music theatre, knew she wanted to be a performer at age five although her two attempts at ballet lessons in her primary years did not go over very well.

She enrolled in the Etobicoke school because she realized she needed more training.

Her first day shyness did not last for long. "You cannot be shy," Liz said. "Everyone is very friendly. You are accepted for what you are."

Liz finds the long hours and hard work she puts into her school work and practices worth it.

"You work long and hard and you sweat," she said. "It is the most frustrating thing."

But with a lot of determination and help from her peers the Georgetown teenager pushes through the frustration.

If Liz had the choice she would still throw herself into her rehearsals. "It is what I want," she said. "I cannot imagine being anything else."

Although the school stresses individuality it also stresses togetherness as students work with each other in ensembles, choirs

and orchestras.

"Everyone knows what we can do if we work together," the teenager said. But it is not all hard work, she added. "We have a lot of fun too."

Liz is not pursuing a career in drama to see her name in lights. "It is a passion for performing and learning," she said.

The Georgetown teenager knows that she will find her niche in the world of drama. "You go through audition after audition and one day find a place for yourself," she said.

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Police beat

Assault charge

Three Brampton residents were charged with assault causing bodily harm and assault following a domestic dispute at 60 Park Avenue at 11 p.m. Feb. 21.

Police say a 39-year-old male resident of the building received cuts to his face and his female companion was punched and kicked but she was not injured.

Two men and a woman will appear in court March 14.

Camera stolen

Someone broke into a car parked at 300 Guelph Street at 10 a.m. Feb. 19 and stole \$700 worth of camera equipment. The missing equipment includes a wide angle lens.

\$400 damage

Vandals did \$400 damage to a 1986 Ford pick-up truck parked at Night Crossing Restaurant between 5 p.m. Feb. 19 and 6:15 a.m. Feb. 20. The driver's door was bashed, the wing mirror was broken off and the side molding was torn.

Sign vandal

The display sign outside O'Toole's restaurant at 300 Guelph Street was smashed at 10 p.m. Feb. 14. Damage to the sign is estimated at \$500.

Sweet tooth thief

Someone with a sweet tooth broke into Vito's Produce on Highway 7 and Sideroad 22 at 10:30 p.m. Feb. 20 by smashing the glass panel on the front door. The robber stole several boxes of chocolate and gum.

Purse snatched

A 16-year-old young offender was charged in connection with an assault on Main Street near Dufferin Street, Georgetown at 10:10 p.m. Feb. 15. Police say the youth knocked a woman to the ground and tore the strap off her purse. He appeared in court Feb. 16.

Workers fall

There was an industrial accident at 901 Steeles Avenue East in Milton Feb. 12.

At 9:20 a.m. on the construction site, two workmen were installing steel cross beams on the roof of the warehouse. While the structure collapsed, both workers fell approximately 35 feet to the ground.

Both the workers were transported to Milton District Hospital by ambulance. Injured are Douglas Campbell, 29 of Oakville who suffered minor injuries and was treated and released, and Dan Crawford, 29 of Richmond Hill who is in stable condition.

The incident is being investigated by the Ministry of Labor's health and safety branch.

Impressionist exhibits for Friends of Library

By BETTYANNE WELLSTEAD
Herald Special

The major exhibition this year at the Halton Hills Cultural Centre gallery in Georgetown will feature the work of Toronto artist Barbara Howard. The annual summer exhibition will open in June at the gallery and will focus on a variety of work produced by the eminent artist in three media.

The six-week exhibition, the fourth in a series presented by The Friends of the Halton Hills Libraries, will be the first to feature a female artist and impressionist.

The Howard collection will focus on the artist's images of the natural beauty of the world expressed in various ways, from her tiny wood-carvings to life drawings and large impressionist oil paintings. The Friends will sponsor an opening gala in the gallery on Wednesday evening, June 29.

Barbara Howard's work is represented in many permanent collections, including the National Gallery of Canada and the Art Gallery of Ontario, and in galleries throughout Canada, England and the United States. Elected to the

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