

Students goes around the world touring with 'Up With People'

A Georgetown student at Erindale College in Mississauga is attempting to sell up to 150 shares in herself.

Catherine Morris of Cedarvale Court has joined a group called Up With People that is attempting to build understanding between the people of all nations to contribute to a more peaceful world.

Ms. Morris is hoping to raise between \$12,000 and \$15,000 to help pay her way through an 11-month program of travelling throughout Canada and the United States. She is also hoping to go to Australia or China during the program.



Catherine Morris

Before she can go to these places she needs to sell 120 to 150 \$100-shares in herself. Ms. Morris said shareholders will receive a quarterly report on what she has accomplished. They will also receive post cards and will be invited to a slide presentation on what Ms. Morris has learned at the end of her program.

Ms. Morris noted the \$100 share is not a set figure, if someone is willing to give \$50 they can still sponsor her.

She is one of the 8,000 to 9,000 people who applied for the 640 spots in the program.

Applicants were judged on their personalities, maturity and motivation, she said adding musical ability and knowledge of other languages helps. Ms. Morris is fluent in French and knows a little Spanish. She has also been singing since she was eight years old, and she can play the organ.

The musical ability is needed for the two-hour musical play the members show in each of the 70 to 80 communities they visit.

This upcoming performance year starts in July. It also happens to be the 25th anniversary of the "Up With People" program. The show for this year will be called Face to Face, said Ms. Morris. She noted the anniversary show was two years in the making.

The program was founded by J. Blanton Belk in Tucson, Arizona in 1965 with a single cast created from a youth conference called "Hootenany." It became incorporated in 1968 and has grown to five casts consisting of 120 to 130

people each.

According to the international organization, they have no religious or political affiliations. Each year the 640 young people, representing about 25 countries, stay with an estimated 30,000 families around the world.

Ms. Morris says the cast stays with the families to give them a better understanding of the community's culture around them. The participants stay at a family's home for one week.

Ms. Morris applied for the position in early December and received notice of her acceptance just three weeks later. She feels it was "a nice Christmas present."

She is currently working toward getting a bachelors degree in sociology and religion at the University of Toronto and she is anticipating a career in social services.

Ms. Morris plans to start her career after she goes through Up With People.

The program consists of a five-week training period in which the participants work up to 14 hours per day getting their show together in Tucson.

After their training the casts travel throughout North American communities performing one public show and up to three shows for specified groups in each community. Ms. Morris said the participants only stay a week in the community but also help in any way they can. She cited cases of helping handicapped children to swim and aiding the elderly.

Ms. Morris expects to travel up to 48,000 kilometres in the performing year.

The casts stop travelling throughout North America at Christmas to give the participants a two-week break.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Ms. Morris is invited to contact her by writing to 16 Cedarvale Court, Halton Hills, L7G 5C7.

North Halton Tories will vote for leader in Acton

The next leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party won't be chosen primarily by the more wealthy party members as has been the case in the past, says local Conservative party member Dave Whiting.

The party's two previous permanent leaders - Frank Miller and Larry Grossman - were chosen under the old system in which each riding association sent delegates to a convention to vote for the leader. And these leaders wouldn't have



Dianne Cunningham Cam Jackson

been chosen by the grassroots party members, says Mr. Whiting.

Mr. Whiting explained those who ran as delegates were usually those who could afford travel expenses to the convention and a hotel room for two nights.

The new system allows all party members to vote regardless of their "socio-economic background," he says.

Each riding association holds its own mini-leadership election. And the number of votes each leader receives is converted into a number out of 100. If one candidate receives 75 per cent of the North Halton riding association vote then that person would get 75 votes out of a possible 100. Each riding association will hold this kind of election and the candidate with 50 per cent plus one vote will be the next Conservative party leader. Riding associations will hold the

leadership vote May 12.

The North Halton Riding Association will hold its leadership vote at the Acton Curling Club. Those who want to vote will have to purchase a \$10 membership by March 15.

The association will be hosting a \$25 luncheon for the current candidates - Cam Jackson, MPP for Burlington South, Mike Harris, MPP for Nipissing and Dianne Cunningham, MPP for London North - at the Bayrischer-Hof Family Restaurant in Milton Feb. 3.

People are responding positively to the new system, says Mr. Whiting. "I've received several calls from people wanting to attain a membership."

The Halton North association currently has 179 members.

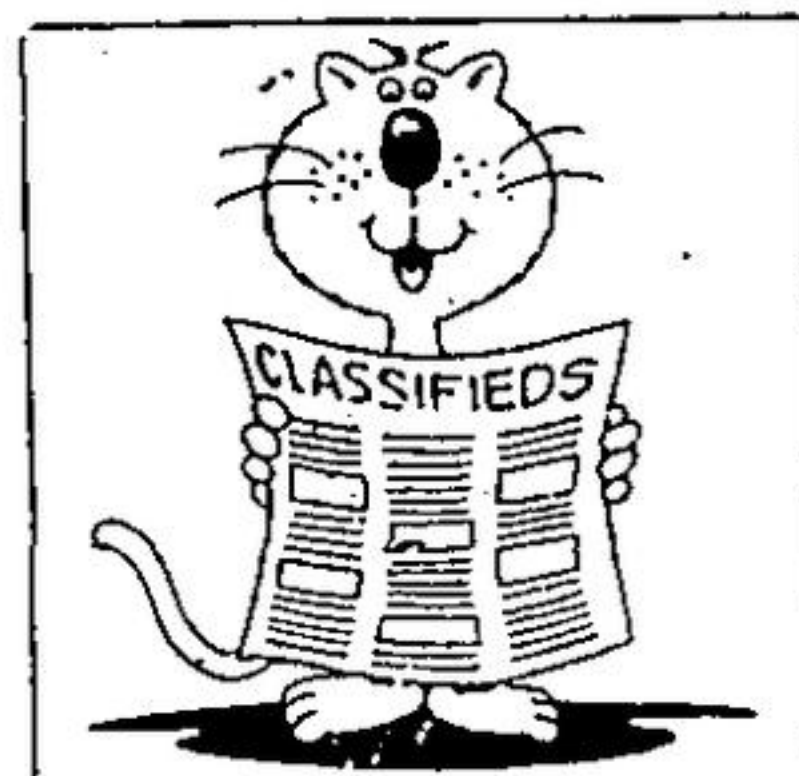
Mr. Whiting says the new system is encouraging the candidates to outline their views to all party members. Under the old system the size of the riding dictated the number of delegates a riding association could send to a convention. The candidates focused their attention in the big ridings in areas like Toronto, said Mr. Whiting.

The Parti Quebecois is the only other political party in Canada to have a similar leadership election.



Michael Harris

Mr. Whiting is unsure which system will be more costly. Contrary to popular opinion under the leadership convention system the party made money, he said.



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