

Youth employment service opens office at Holy Rosary

By ANDREW BRUCE

North Halton Youth Employment Services (YES), a group that helps the unskilled and under-educated find work, has opened an office in Milton.

Previously YES assisted Milton's unemployed youth from an office in Georgetown, with counsellors having to drive into town to meet with their clients. But the Halton Roman Catholic School Board recently offered YES space at Holy Rosary School on Martin Street, free of charge. YES moved in Monday, May 2.

"Before we weren't as visible as we would have liked to be," said Heather McCloskey, co-ordinator of the Futures Program, which will be the main thrust of YES's service in Milton. "We want the community to know we're here. Every day of the week, we can (now) have a counsellor working right out of here (Milton)."

YES, a YMCA organization financially assisted by the federal government, will be in the office, located in an old convent between Holy Rosary School and the church, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. every week day. A sign will be erected within a couple of weeks.

The Futures Program is open to unemployed persons under 25 years of age. Eligibility is also dependant upon the applicants' education and length of their unemployment.

Futures offers a variety of different options — work terms and special education classes — to help clients obtain the skills and education necessary to find a position in the workforce and maintain it.

With the acquisition of office space in Milton, YES will be able to enhance the educational aspects of the Futures Program in Milton.

For example, one of the options, Part-time, Part-time, is a new initiative for Futures that offers unemployed people without a Grade 12 diploma a chance to work part-time, with government subsidized wages, and catch up on their education part-time as well — but away from the school environment. Tutors will be able to work at the office with clients, who will be able to accumulate credits toward a high school diploma.

This program should be in full swing in the Milton office by early July, Ms McCloskey said. "The reason they (unemployed drop-outs) left



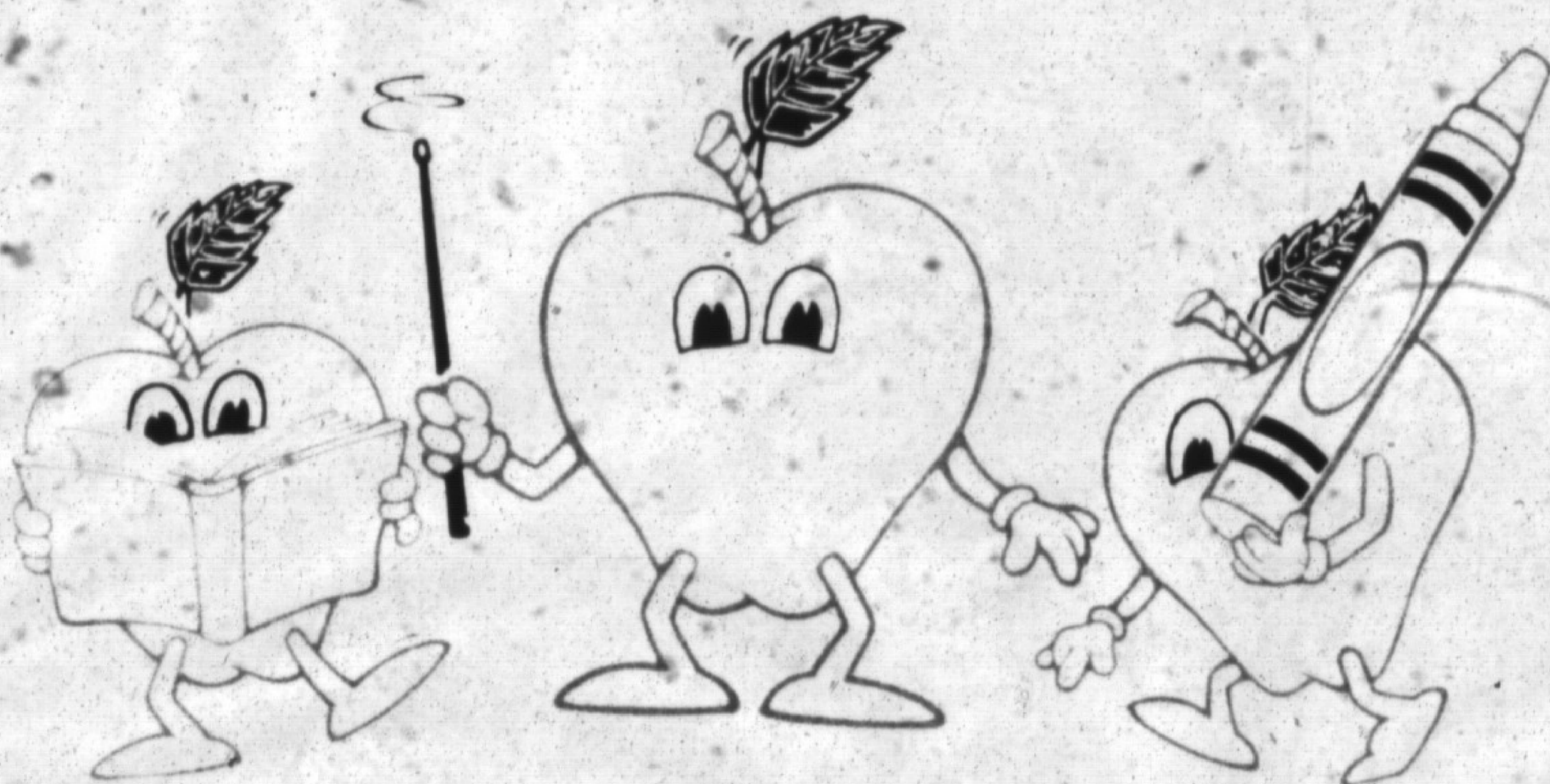
HEATHER McCLOSKEY

school in the first place is because of the courses, the teachers or the whole school environment. The Roman Catholic School Board was able to meet the needs of our clients by providing a building away from the school setting."

In addition to the Futures program, YES offers a variety of other services for the unemployed. Counsellors will assist with resume preparation, test clients for job suitability and help in a job search. Counsellors will also check on the progress of clients who have found employment until they are stable.

Anyone who is unemployed and under the age of 25 is invited to call the YES office in Milton (876-1919) between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. weekdays. After 12 p.m., call the Georgetown office (877-6979).

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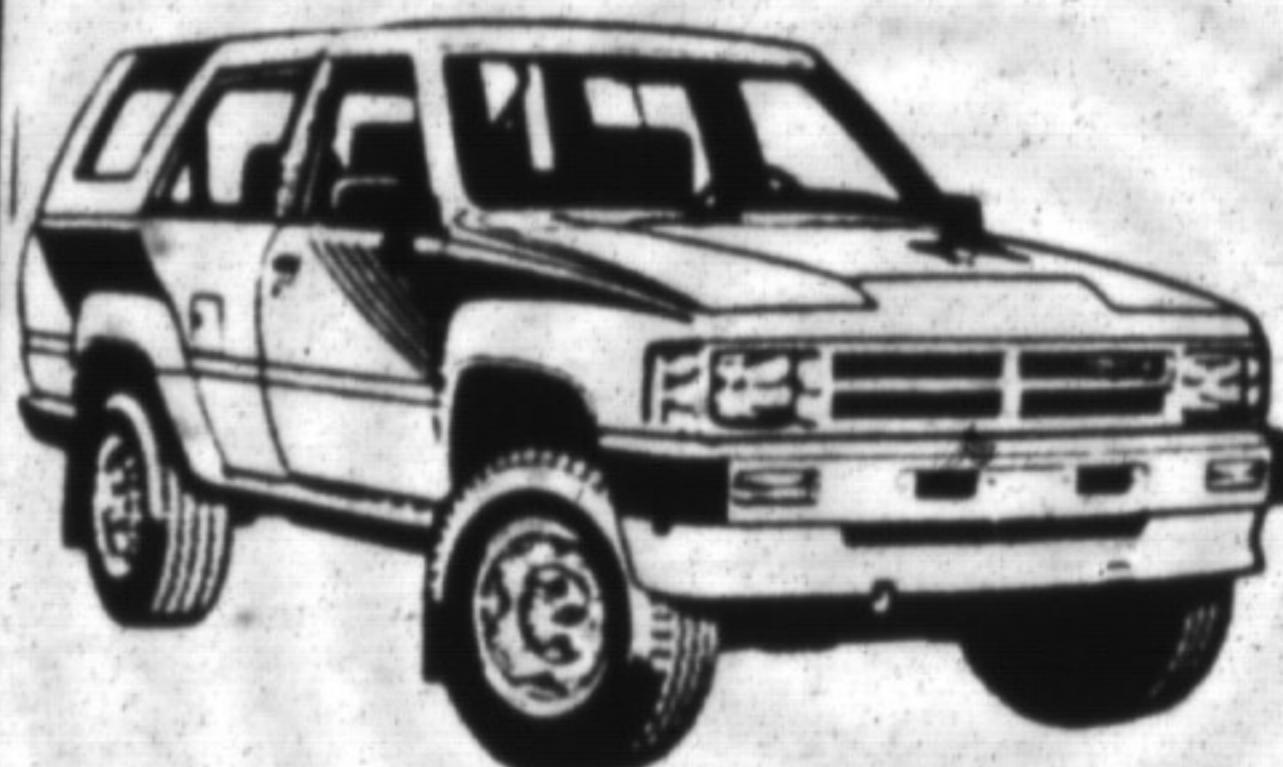
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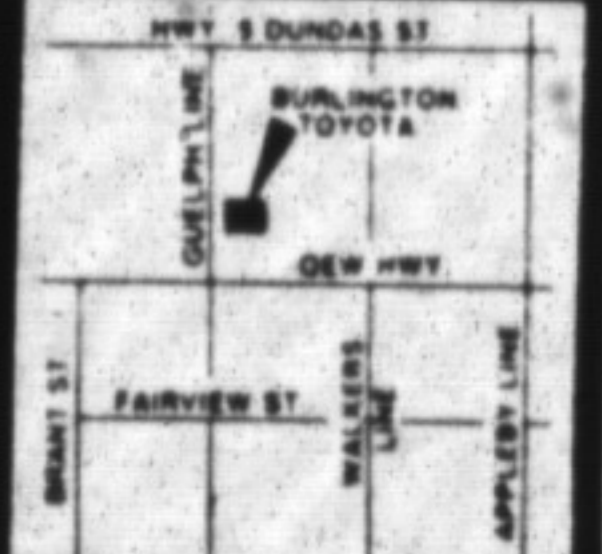


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