

Local students gain insight into real police work

"It's really changed our image of police officers," says Shelley Chapman.

"I think the public in general often think that policeman are machines, that they are bound by hardfast rules," adds Cathy Casquetette, "but that's not the real way it is at all. They're highly skilled and they're nice people doing a good job."

While both Chapman and Casquetette would be the first to tell you that

their six-day visit with the Midland Detachment of the OPP is not necessarily designed to teach them greater appreciation of the human side of police-officers—it's one of the bonuses that comes with being a student in the Law and Security Program with Georgian College in Barrie.

The students are participating in a work week, that includes work

in close quarters with police officers at both the Barrie and Midland OPP detachments. They are there to gain an insight into what the police forces are all about, by accompanying police constables wherever they go—be it patrolling, court room work, radio room dispatching and investigation, or setting up a speed trap. In this week they'll do it all—and they'll work the same strange shifts as the

police officers. The course itself, overseen by Georgian's program coordinator Robert Warman, is designed, ultimately, to prepare students to gain sufficient experience to acquire employment in any of several facets of police work, including customs officers, penitentiary work, or civilian police duty.

No push over
The course is certainly no push over as the students will attest to. While they are in the second year of the two-year program, their original class of 26 has been pared down to 13. The course outline seems demanding but challenging.

"We take everything," Shelley Chapman says, "Law and Justice, Abnormal Psychology, Criminology, Police Communications, Government studies and even some martial arts—in an unarmed combat part of the program."

Both students agree that the officers at the Midland Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police have been more than helpful.

"They've been really nice," Shelley says. "We're with them all the time, and they'll answer any and all questions that we might have."

The students explained that both have "Police Auxiliary" uniforms that are normally worn during the work weeks, but that OPP policy is not to allow students to do so—for the students' own safety.

"They are concerned that we could be shot at during the course of an investigation," Shelley explained. Neither girl seemed particularly upset however.

While they visited the girls at the OPP Midland detachment on Monday, both confided that it had seemed quiet, especially at an earlier two-day session with the Barrie OPP. But for every occurrence Cathy

Casquetette said, a notation goes down in the book.

Log books
"While the log books of the detachment are off limits because of confidentiality," Cathy said, "we must keep our own record as well, without infringing on the confidentiality of the detachment."

Both Casquetette and Chapman will be preparing a report for their program coordinator when they return to school, and odds are that before the week is out, they'll have much activity to fill their notebooks with. District Seven is cottage country one of them says, and cottage country generally means a high incidence of occurrences.

But besides the first hand observation of

police at work, the students will, by week's end, have gained an insight into the various technical skills of Midland's OPP force—and an insight into the human side of policemen.



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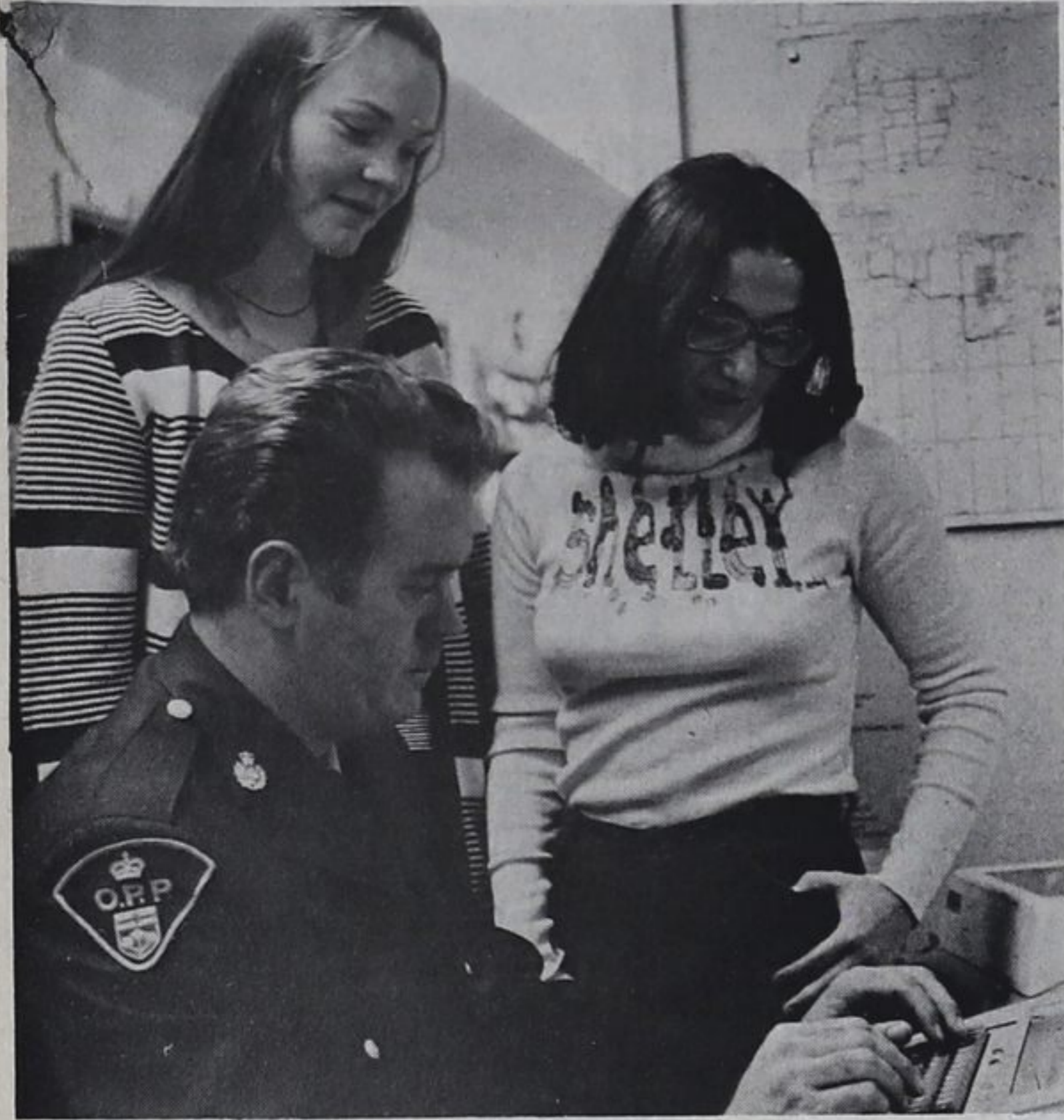
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December, 1977



Inside information

Cathy Casquetette and Shelley Chapman, both Midland area students from Georgian College look on as Constable Gord Mugford of the Midland OPP

instructs them on an identification gathering machine known as "CPIC". The girls will spend until Thursday at the OPP detachment. Staff photo

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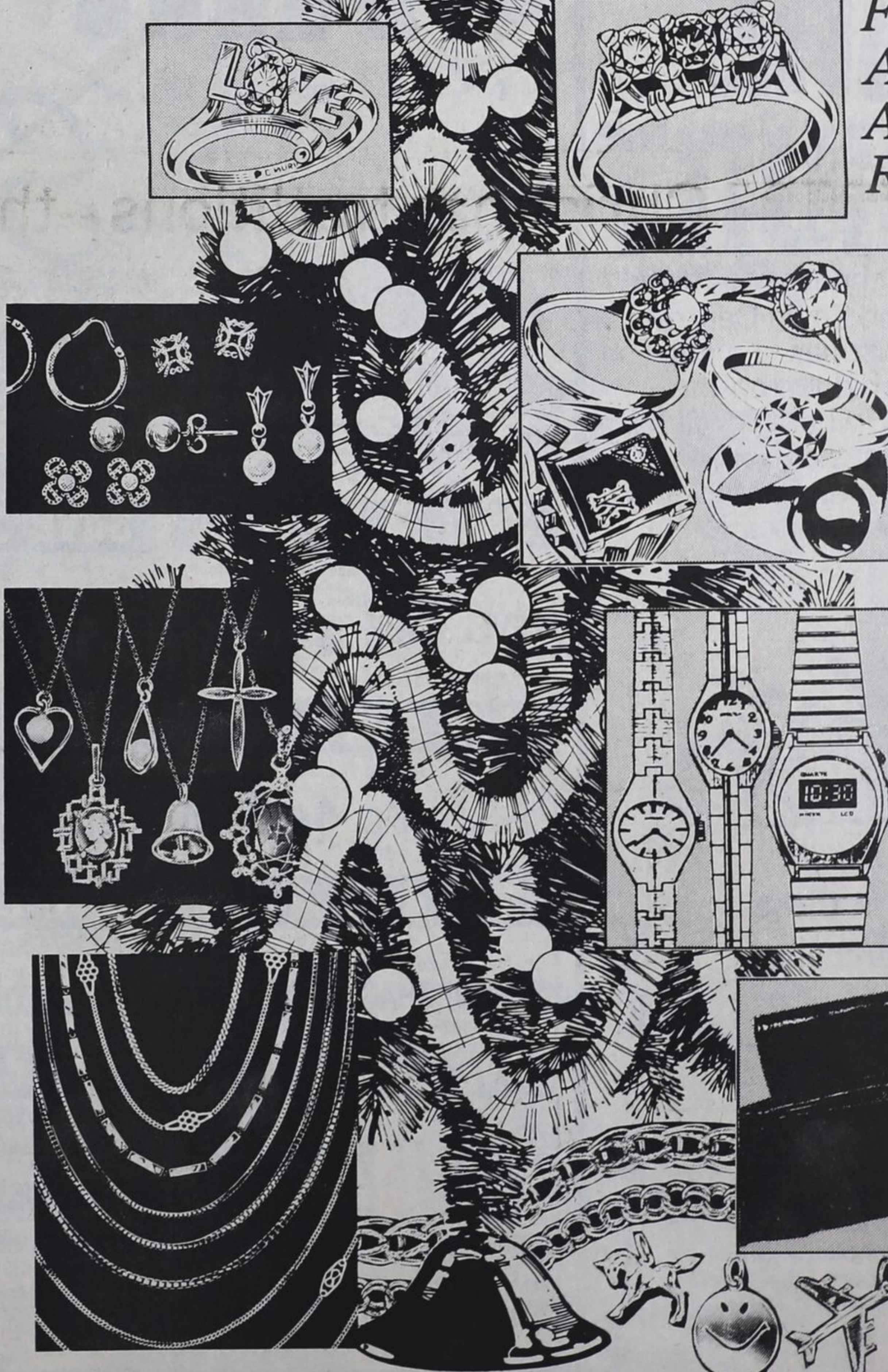
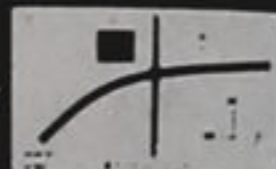
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