

# SDSS Tech grads in demand

By JIM THOMAS

**STOUFFVILLE** — Hi-Tech is no longer a dream at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School. It's a reality.

And the results are amazing. "We need more," is the word coming back from industry to Technical Director Eric Knabe. Firms utilizing student employees, either on a co-op arrangement or on a full-time basis, are extremely pleased with their wide-ranging skills, Mr. Knabe said in an interview Friday.

An on-site tour of the Technology Department is the beginning of a series of articles by The Tribune in an effort to give parents specifically and the community as a whole, a better insight into "what's going on" at S.D.S.S.

Says Mr Knabe: "Our aim is to provide students with learning experiences that will not only equip them with the necessary skills, but help develop attitudes that will allow them to lead productive, successful and happy lives as adults in our society."

The Technology Department is divided into five main areas—Automotive, Drafting, Machine Shop, Electricity and Woodworking.

Machine Shop students are afforded the opportunity to work with computers, equipment costing close to thirty thousand dollars. "Hi-tech has arrived at Stouffville High," says Mr Knabe.

Both Principal John Nikifork and Mr Knabe are strong advocates of the Co-op Program. "We must keep abreast of the needs of industry," says Mr Nikifork, "things are changing so rapidly, it's difficult to keep up."

"Every student should have Co-op experience," agrees Mr Knabe. He says the community has been very co-operative in this regard.

While all graduates may not follow a career related directly to a specialized technology course, this form of education is good grounding for young people, the director explains.

Next year, the same type of Co-op program will be expanded to

include the Commercial Department, Mr Nikifork said.

He admits lack of transportation makes 'commuting' to and from places of employment difficult for some students.

While boys outnumber girls almost 10 to 1 in technology participation, Mr Knabe feels this ratio is narrowing.

"I'd like to see more girls enrolled," he says, "we're continually encouraging them."

Incidents of injury are negligible, he stated.

Although at present, computers are available only in Machine Shop, delivery of a unit for the Drafting Department is expected soon.

Mr Knabe believes in the "hands-on" learning approach or "learning by doing". Whitchurch-Stouffville trustee and Board of Education Chairman Harry Bowes, in attendance at the interview and subsequent 'tour of inspection', praised the technical program at S.D.S.S., describing the woodworking course as "the best in York Region."



"Instruction today, to meet needs for tomorrow" That's the policy of the Technology Department at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School under the direction of Eric Knabe. Here in the

Automotive Department, students Keith Grose, 18, (left), and Paul Shaw, 17, (right), receive instruction from staff teacher Carl Roberts.



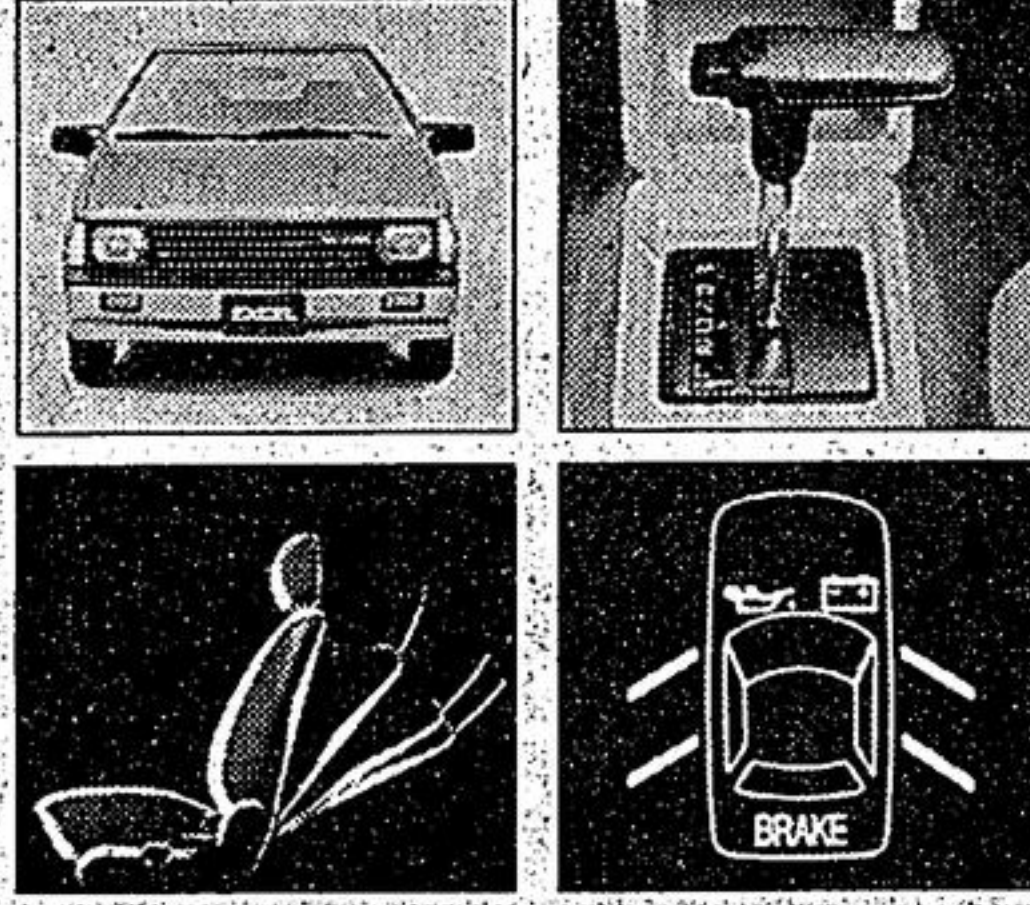
Machine Technology at S.D.S.S. includes \$30,000 worth of up-to-date computer equipment. This type of training provides opportunities for further post secondary education, or appren-

ticeships and employment. Here, John McCracken, 17, operates a precision grinder under the watchful eyes of Mr Knabe, (centre), and Board of Education Chairman Harry Bowes.

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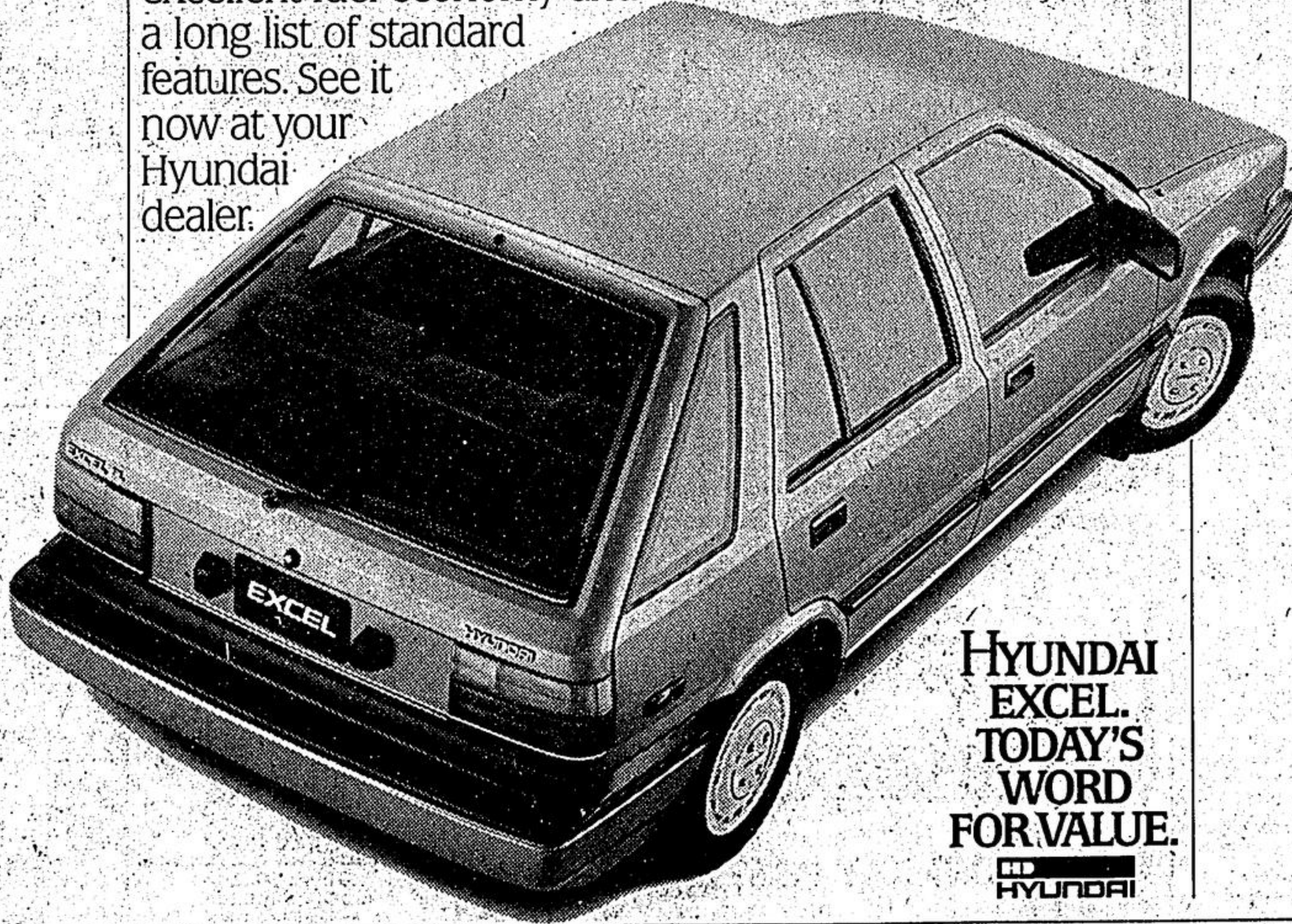
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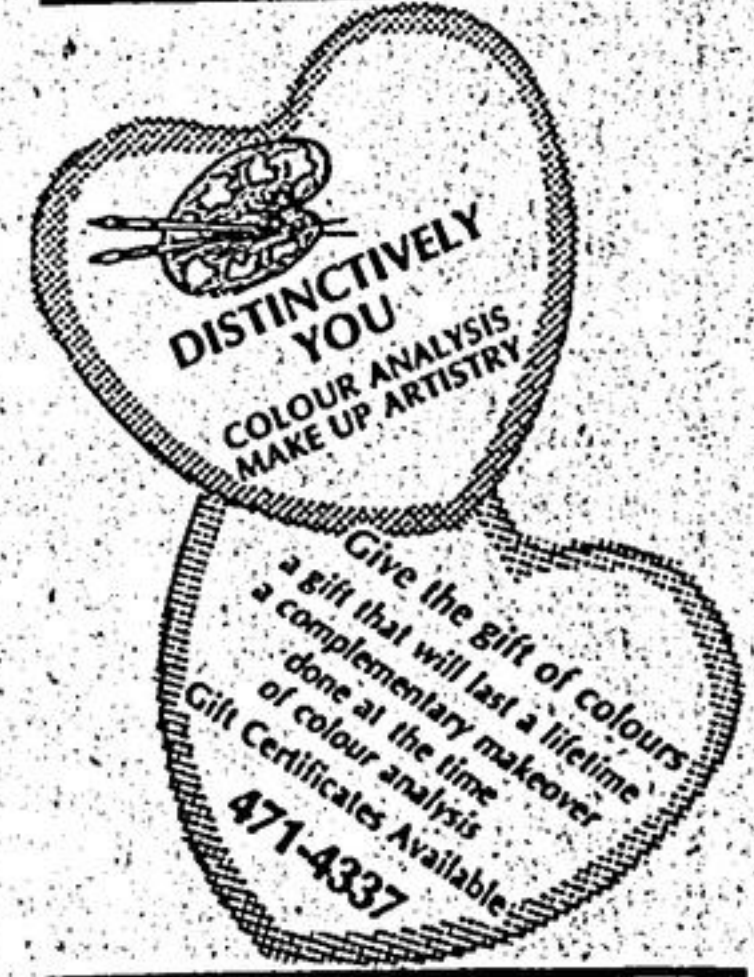
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### CORRECTION GNC General Nutrition Centre

Due to an omission in our advertisement that ran in the Economist & Sun on Feb. 5, our FREE offer was incorrect. The Ad should have read "Free gold plated chain" with every cosmetics purchase of \$15 or more (\$10. value). We regret any inconvenience caused by the error.



### PROCLAMATION

That the weeks of February 17th to 28th, 1986 be proclaimed as "Learning Disabilities Weeks" in the Town of Markham.

Carole Bell,  
Mayor.

**MARKHAM**