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Student ready for trip of lifetime

KATE GILDERDALE
Correspondent

In July this year, University of Waterloo student Pamela Powell will put away her books, pack her bags and embark on the trip of a lifetime.

In the 12 months to follow, the 20-year-old 19th Avenue, Markham resident will visit North America, Europe, Russia, Israel and Brazil as part of a touring show called 'Up With People', operated by an organization based in Tucson, Arizona.

Their goal is to promote peace and understanding among all people around the world.

The non-profit group was started in 1965 by an American named Blanton Belk and now operates internationally, Pam explains. "It involves students from all over the world, those who are picked to become part of the cast."

Five different casts will perform the show, consisting mostly of singing, dancing and some instrumental music. A total of 550 people between the ages of 18 and 25 participate in the five performances. They're carefully selected from about 9,000 applicants.

"Since 1965, only 400 Canadians have been involved. I thought I'd have to go for an audition, but they based the selection mainly on past experience in travelling and willingness to give up a year of study. They also really want to know why you want to do it," stresses Pam.

Maturity and personality are important factors as well, she says. "They asked questions to reveal how you would get on living with people from different nationalities." Pam's musical experience includes 12 years of piano lessons, seven years of playing the flute and a talent for singing.

"I've sung since I was young, in church, at school and in university," Pam's first destination will be Tucson, where she'll

meet her fellow performers and where they'll spend five weeks putting the show together. Each year there's a new theme, and much of the material is original.

The show is fast-paced and colorful. The beautiful costumes are supplied by the organization. The venues can be anywhere from a high school auditorium to an Expo site.

"They've done shows at the Super Bowl during half time on four occasions. I think that's an unprecedented record."

There are also informal events, with groups appearing at places like the Eaton Centre.

Pam became aware of 'Up With People,' when someone gave her tickets to a performance at Massey Hall in 1987. During the intermission, performers mingled with the audience and Pam began asking questions.

She was invited backstage and later decided to apply. Ten weeks after her interview, she heard to her surprise she'd been accepted. She was, however, given a six-month period to decide whether she could handle the cost and cope with losing a year of university.

She also hoped her parents would accept the idea of her taking a year off, but she needn't have worried. "They've been so supportive," she stresses. "They couldn't have been better."

She's since approached various organizations and companies for sponsorship and is also employed full-time to earn money towards her trip. The 'Up With People' organization provides half the cost, through ticket sales and the sponsorship of major companies including Coca-Cola.

As well as performing, the students are also involved in social service activities, such as visiting prisons, nursing homes, hospitals and public and high schools.

"In the schools, we do part of the show and then go to the



Student Pamela Powell of 19th Avenue in Markham will visit North America, Europe, Russia, Israel and Brazil as part of a touring show called 'Up With People', operated by an organization based in Tucson, Arizona.

classrooms and discuss current issues with the students."

The young performers will have to work hard at learning different languages to enable them to communicate with the people they meet during their travels. Over the year, accommodation will be provided by local families and Pamela expects to stay in about 80 different locations.

This year marks the organization's second visit to Russia. "Last year close to 24,000 people attended one of the concerts," she notes. Admitting she sometimes feels a little nervous when she contemplates her year away, Pamela adds, "It's silly really because you always worry about things and then they always work out."

Students will gain confidence, learn to communicate with various nationalities and become aware of the difference between cultures. They will also receive exposure to the technical aspects of putting the show together; before each performance, a group of students will get everything organized, including promotions and ticket sales.

When Pam returns, she'll be going back to Waterloo to continue her four-year course in Social Development Studies. She's recently completed her first year, and says she loved it. "I think part of the reason I enjoyed it so much is because I knew I was working towards a year off and a change. I put all I could into this year."

- AVAILABLE THIS WEEK**
- ★ The Accused
 - ★ Sweetheart's Dance
 - ★ The Iron Triangle
- AVAILABLE NEXT WEEK**
- ★ Coming to America
- COMING SOON**
- Mississippi Burning
 - Rainman
 - Beaches
 - Roger Rabbit
 - Disney's Classic Bambi

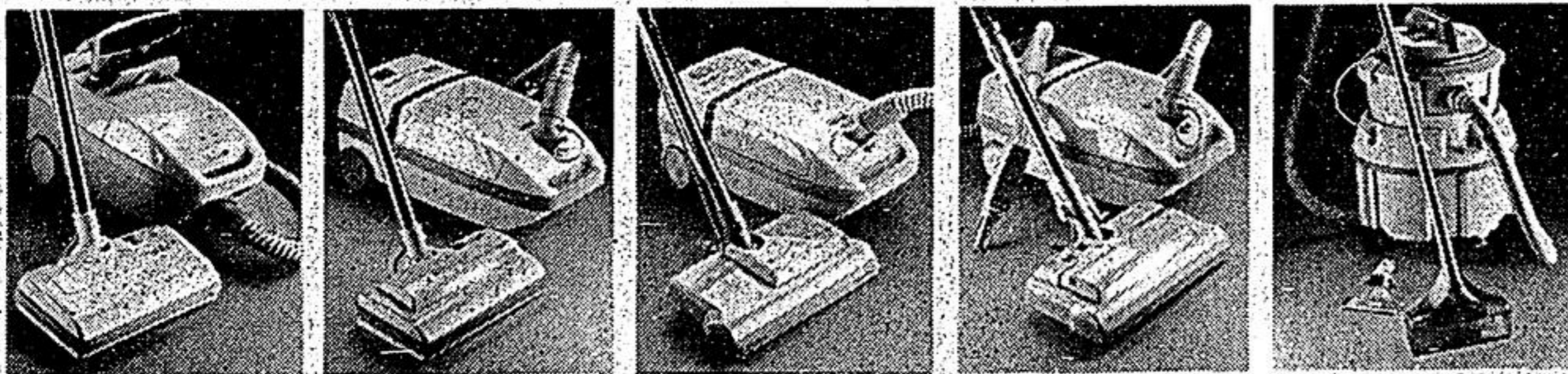
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EVENT SCHEDULE WILL BE PUBLISHED IN MAY 24th, & MAY 26th, ISSUES

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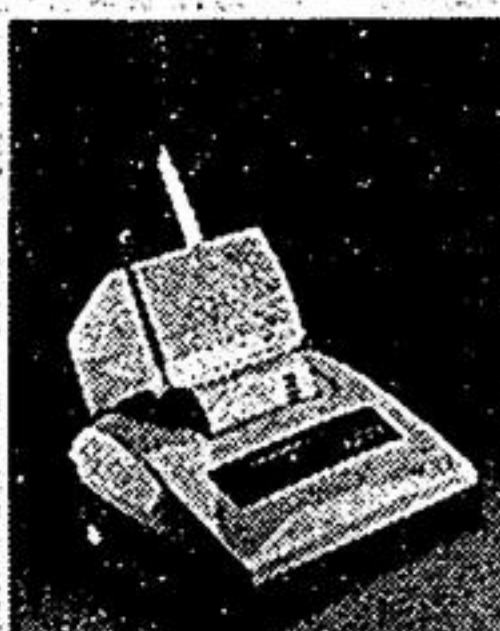
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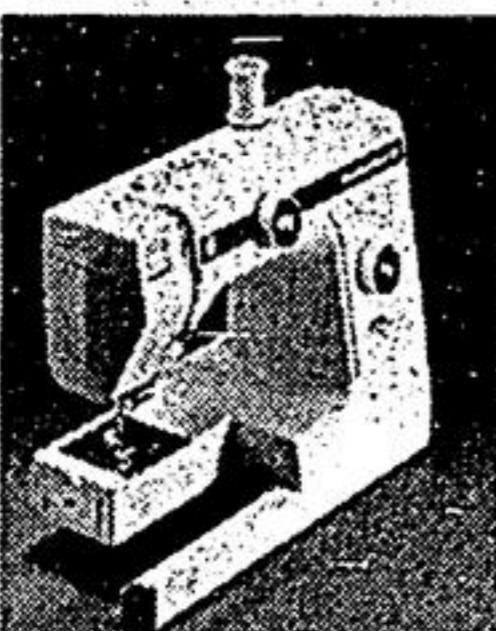
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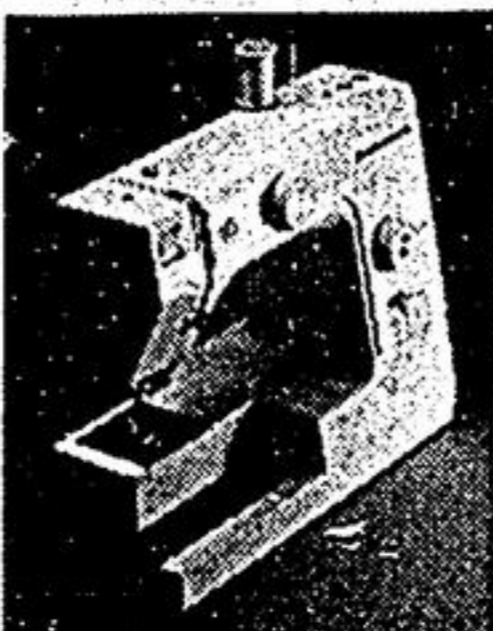
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Self-propelled upright vacuum helps ease workload. #30357. Sears reg. 429.99... 279.99



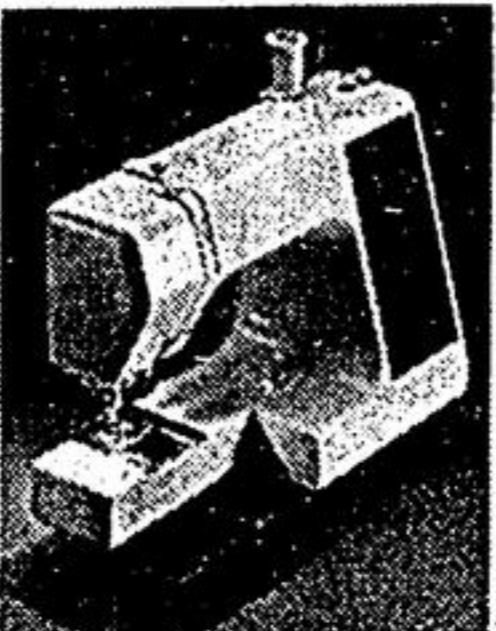
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THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWN OF MARKHAM

NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR DEMOLITION PERMIT FOR THE JOHN JERMAN HOUSE MUNICIPALLY KNOWN AS 16 WELLINGTON STREET, MARKHAM

TAKE NOTICE THAT the Council of the Corporation of the Town of Markham at its meeting held on May 2nd, 1989 refused the application and prohibited any work to demolish or remove any building or structure on a property municipally known as the John Jerman House, 16 Wellington Street, Markham, for a period of 180 days from the date of the Council Meeting of May 2nd, 1989 pursuant to the provisions of Section 34(2)(b) of the Ontario Heritage Act.

Christine Palmer, A.M.C.T.
Deputy Clerk
The Town of Markham
8911 Woodbine Avenue
Markham, Ontario
L3R 1A1

DATED at the Town of Markham this 3rd day of May, 1989.

Published a first time this 10th day of May, 1989.

MARKHAM