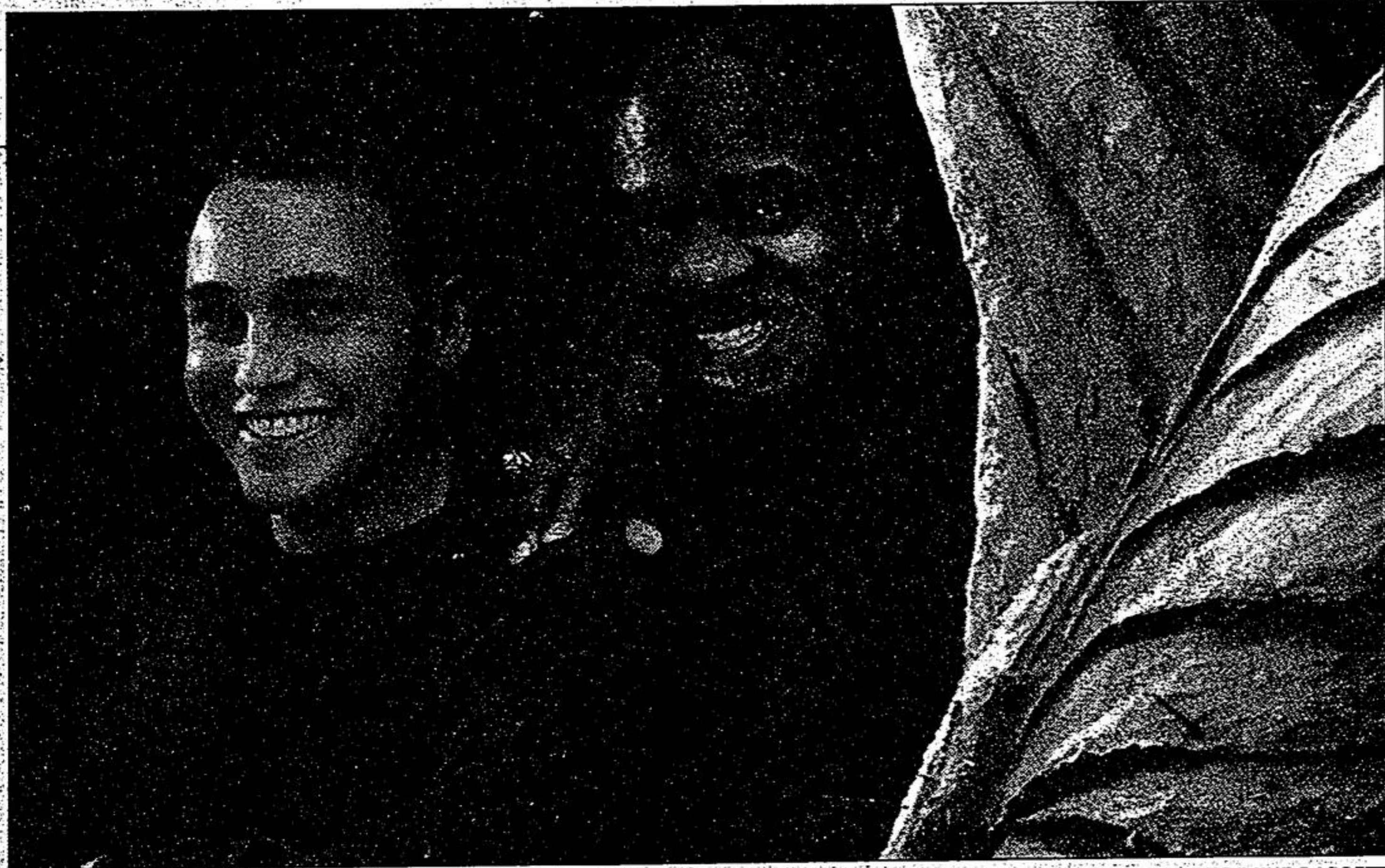


ECONOMIST & SUN/TRIBUNE

AT THE SCHOOLS

TEACHER OF THE MONTH



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Dorsey James (right), an art teacher at Markham District High School, was nominated by former student Shane Clodd.

Art teacher brings back magic, awe of learning

BY STEFANIA RIZZI
Staff Writer

Dorsey James became a high school art teacher by luck.

A brief conversation with the assistant dean at York University's faculty of education was all it took for Mr. James to enter a career that would span more than 23 years.

"Luck caused him to be walking into the cafeteria. There was an empty seat in front of me, he asked if he could sit down and we started talking about education," explained the 55-year-old Markham District High School art teacher. "He said teaching would be something I'd be good at because (he said) you speak in pictures and kids can relate to that and that's what we need in education today."

Since graduating from the faculty some 20 odd years ago,

Mr. James said the teaching profession has experienced many changes. Through it all, he said he has endeavoured to inspire students to achieve their best.

'If you can find the button to inspire, to give them that awe, you've got them for life.'

"We've gotten so bogged down on the rudimentaries, we've forgotten about the awe, the magic of learning, of hoping, of inspiring and somehow we need to get back to it," said the Pickering resident, who has one of his sculptures displayed at the Markham Civic Centre. "When I see the gleam in the

kids' eyes and they know what they're doing, when I hear how excited they are, it's very exciting for me.

"If you can find the button to inspire, to give them that awe, you've got them for life," he added.

Mr. James found a life friend in former student Shane Clodd. The two met when Mr. Clodd was in Mr. James' Grade 9 art class. It was Mr. James who encouraged the young student to consider an art career.

"He always had great abilities as an artist and person. He always encouraged me to pursue art as a full-time career," explained the 25-year-old Markham resident, adding their student-teacher relationship blossomed into a wonderful friendship, so much so the two artists created a sculpture gar-

See I'M, page 20.

How do students juggle homework, jobs and school?

It's not easy to handle high school, homework and extra-curricular activities, such as school clubs or sports teams.

Yet many students still find time for a part-time job, either because they want the experience or because they need the money.

By doing this, students are getting a taste of the real world as they learn to balance a busy lifestyle.

Unionville's Robyn Dalley, a 17-year-old student at Unionville High School, made a conscious effort to choose a job that was practical for her lifestyle and priorities, including an internship at Markham Stouffville Hospital and competitive volleyball.

"I picked a job that would not affect my sleep patterns or school work so it could just become a part of my schedule," she says.

This ability to think ahead is just one of many important lessons that students are learning at their part-time jobs.

Markham's Matt Pereira, a 17-year-old student at Markham's Brother André High School, says, "My job has really helped my time management skills, I'm actually using an agenda now."

Students are also gaining valuable work experience. Robyn Dalley says she wanted a job so she could build a resume.

"I want to be involved in a lot of things, not just school. It shows I am well-rounded," she says.

Yet most agree that the most attractive thing about any part-time job is the money.

Eighteen-year-old Andrew Hochkirchen, who attends Markham District High School, enjoys having pocket cash for everyday uses but adds, "I really need the money to save up for university."

Younger students have different priorities



Nicole Franke

At the Schools Writer

For example, Mark Brown, a 16-year-old Richmond Hill High School student, has not started to save money for post-secondary education.

Instead, he earnings go to clothes and other expenses that his parents no longer cover. He is even saving up for a trip to Cancun, Mexico.

Other students consider their jobs important, but put their top priorities in other areas, such as hobbies or sports teams.

Making such distinctions is a valuable lesson when a student is forming his or her schedule.

Mr. Hochkirchen says, "I don't want to feel like I have to miss a rugby game because I have to work."

Mr. Pereira adds, "getting a scholarship and being able to travel is what makes playing soccer more important to me than having a job."

Most students, however, would be well advised to at least try a job, because there is so much to gain in terms of learning new skills and dealing with the realities of the real world.

As Ms. Dalley says, "It all prepares you for life. In the big picture, a part-time job is very beneficial."

Nicole Franke recently graduated from Unionville High School.

'It all prepares you for life. In the big picture, a part-time job is very beneficial.'

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