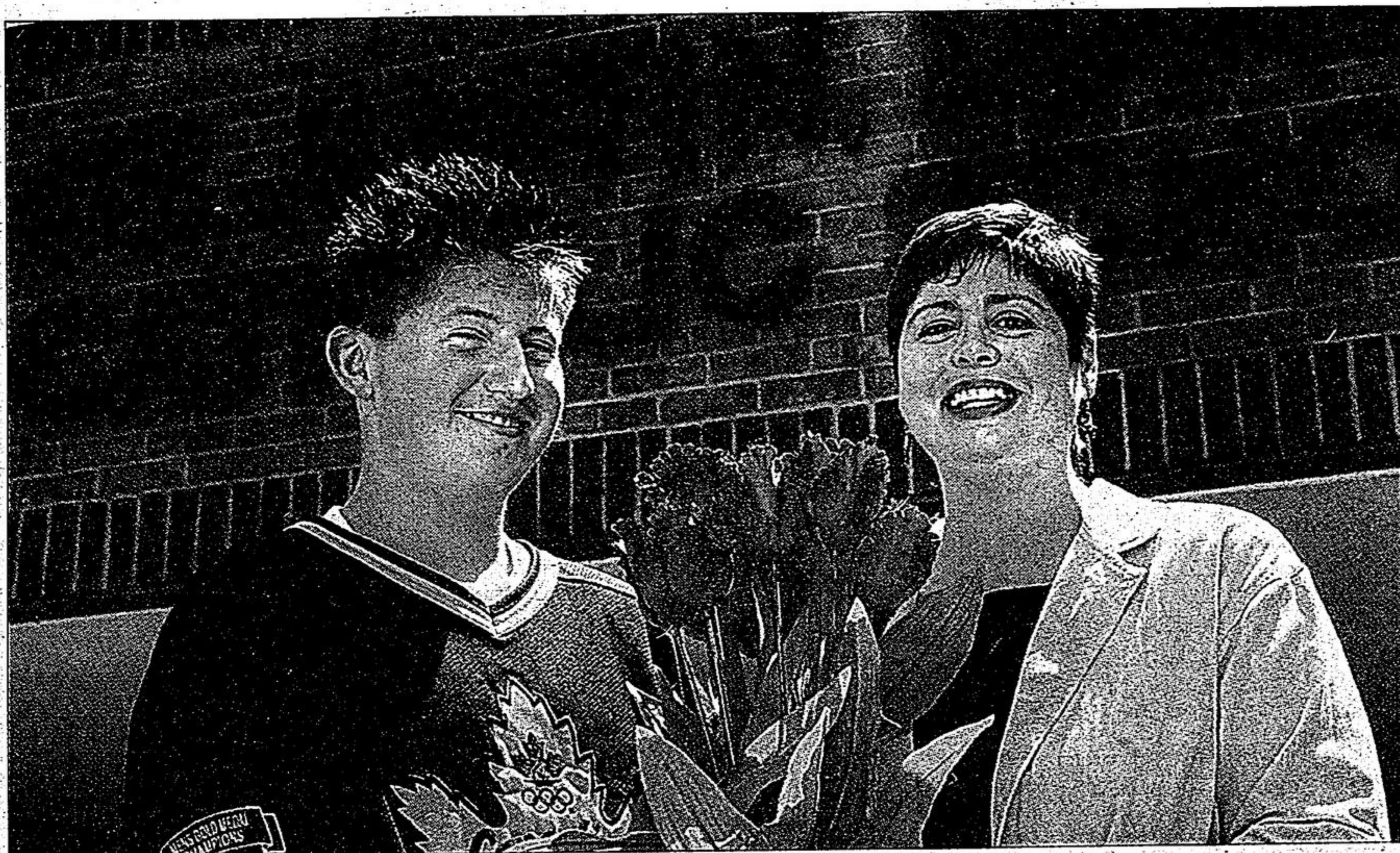


# At the Schools



STAFF PHOTO/SJOERD WITTEVEEN

Christian Diamond nominated Grade 8 teacher Jacquie Cushing Dill of St. Justin, Martyr Catholic School as May's teacher of the month.

## Teacher encourages students to 'think globally, act locally'

BY CHRISSE O'BRIEN  
*Special*

**A** dedication to passing on the importance of social justice has earned Jacquie Cushing Dill of Unionville's St. Justin, Martyr Catholic School the York Region Newspaper Group's teacher of the month honour for May.

Grade 8 student Christian Diamond nominated her because of her help and encouragement.

"Mrs. Cushing Dill believes in many things and instills these values in students," wrote Christian in his nomination letter.

"She encourages us all the time and always pushes us to do better, which will help us in high school."

Mrs. Cushing Dill says her greatest love in teaching is encouraging students to become contributing members of society.

Using her political science degree from York University, she instills in stu-

dents the importance of participation, not only in class, but in society through an extracurricular group to encourage social justice.

"Christian is a part of the Luke 4:18 social justice committee at school," Mrs. Cushing Dill said.

*'I didn't really see the world before. Now I want to help people. I even stop to give change to the homeless.'*

"I have been very involved over the years in starting these committees. Students seem really inspired by this committee and working with the less fortunate."

The group changes students' perceptions of the world, which Mrs. Cushing Dill believes is vital to education. Judging by Christian's comments,

that appears to be true.

"Luke 4:18 teaches us values and there's not enough of those in the world," Christian said. "What I've learned in Luke 4:18 affected who I am as a person."

"I didn't really see the world before. Now I want to help people. I even stop to give change to the homeless."

Christian noted his teacher, "always encourages us. She makes us do study notes, which is always a big help. She also rewards us for our effort."

St. Justin, Martyr Principal Lolita Bruno said she was not surprised with the teacher-of-the-month honour. "Mrs. Cushing Dill is an excellent teacher," she said. "She works very hard with her students."

"She is very dedicated and runs extracurricular activities that take her away from her home."

Mrs. Cushing Dill has taught for six

See *She*, page 27.

## Summer job search frustrating

For many teenagers, finding a part-time or summer job can be a challenging task.

Teenagers are starting to realize their value in the job market is not considered very high. Most teens can only find minimum-wage paying jobs because of schoolwork demands and because they have little or no job knowledge and experience.

Younger teens also have to deal with these problems, including overcoming society's perception of the correct age to start working. Many teenagers discover they must be at least 16 to get a regular paying job.

Unionville's Gillian Casey, 15, a student at St. Augustine Catholic High School, is finding it hard to get a summer job.

"So many people are looking for a summer job right now and they're all older than me," she says.

The Ontario Ministry of Labour states the minimum age for a person to work in a store, office or arena workplace is 14.

Students under 18 years old get paid a minimum wage of \$6.40 an hour, while a general worker would be paid a minimum wage of \$6.85 an hour.

Although a student can start working at 14 years old, finding a job is not easy. With no job experience, age can often be the deciding factor. An employer must decide how important age is and how young is too young.

Melissa Shearer, a 15 year old student, says she's the perfect age to start working, but agrees being under 16 makes it harder to find a job.

Younger students who do land jobs often discover they are getting paid less and working more hours than older teenagers.

"You get paid less when



Paula Lam

*At the Schools Columnist*

you are younger. Age is not crucial, but it is important," Gillian says.

Some younger teens will go to drastic measures to get a part-time or summer job. Some will even tell employers they are older to land a job.

"Quite a few people lie about their age," Gillian admits.

Some younger teens turn to other solutions if they cannot get a regular paying job. Teens, who are somewhere between babysitting and having a "real" job, go into business themselves.

A neighbourhood cleaning service, yard maintenance, pet sitting and educational or PC tutoring are just a few examples of the creative ways younger teens are finding to earn money.

Younger teenagers having trouble finding a job should take advantage of resources available to them.

Looking for jobs that suit their interests and utilizing all their contacts can be extremely helpful.

"I knew some people at the golf pro shop and used my contacts to help me get the job," says Melissa, who works as a cashier at a golf pro shop.

"I started working when I was 13 as part of the tack-up staff at a horseback riding barn. I love horseback riding

See *NETWORKING*, page 27.

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