

Busy students squeeze in extra courses

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Orfanakos, co-ordinating principal of continuing education for the board.

Grade 12 university English is also very popular with students trying to either upgrade their marks or leave themselves room for more options in their last year of high school.

Some students may be getting ahead of themselves by taking senior courses in their early high school years, but not everyone is doing it to get to university faster.

For Grade 9 student Emily Davidson, who is taking a civics and careers course online over the summer, the move is to allow herself more options next year.

"I wanted to take Grade 11 biology next year and I wanted to lighten my load, so I thought I might as well take it online," Ms Davidson said, adding she doesn't mind having to do extra work when the weather is nice.

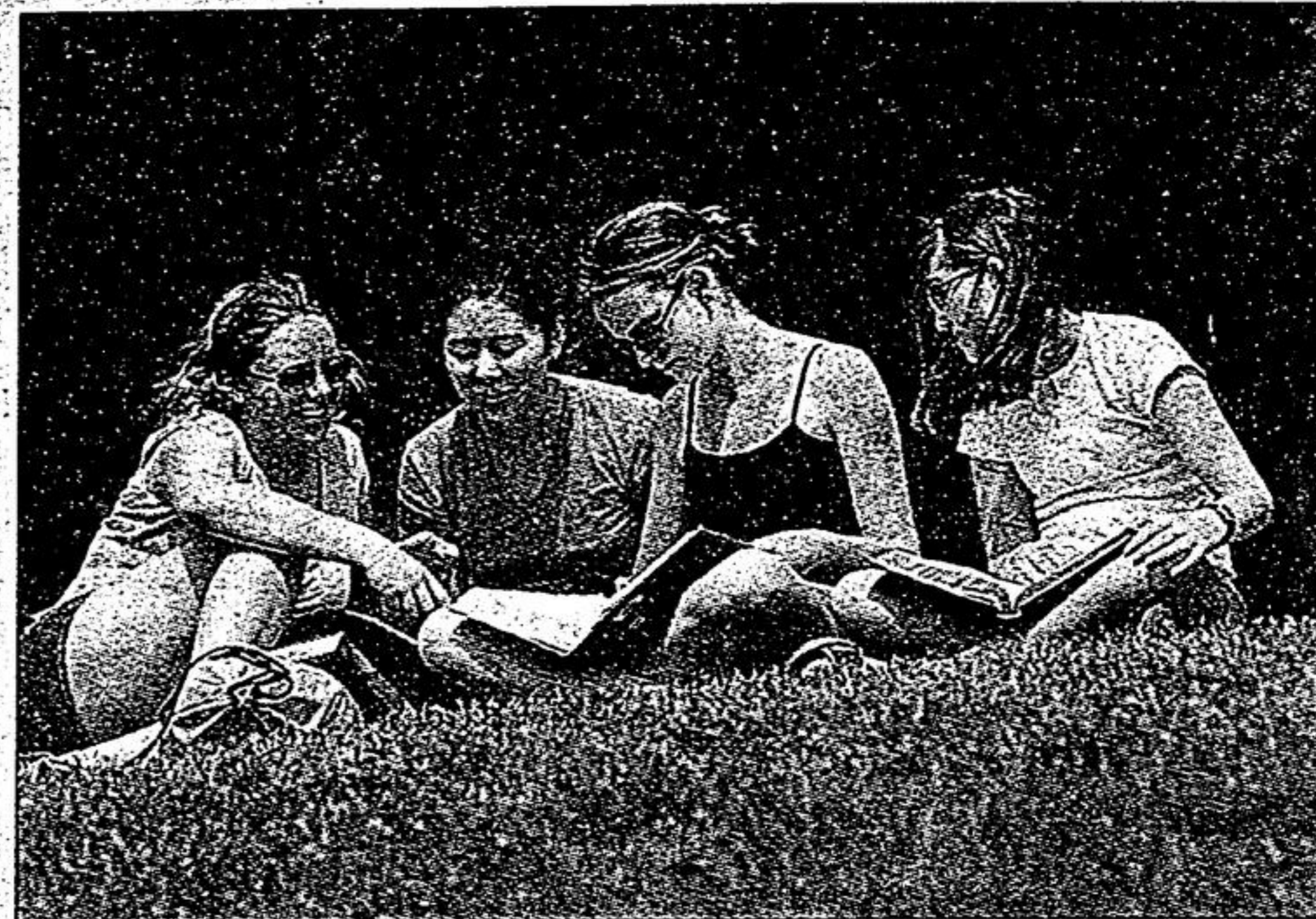
"I still want to do four years, but I want to take spares in later grades," Ms Davidson added.

Jessie Qi, also a Grade 9 student, plans to do summer school over the Internet, expecting to take Grade 11 accounting over the summer.

"I still want to do four years, but I couldn't fit everything into my timetable," Ms Qi said.

The popularity of accelerated courses has increased in York Catholic high schools over the past two years with one-third of the 3,500 summer school students taking accelerated courses.

Some students take acceler-



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Newmarket High School students Sarah Porter (left), Jesse Qi, Emily Davidson and Amber Blanchet hit the books while soaking up the sun. Many high school students are taking summer classes to complete school early or lighten their course loads.

ated courses because university is becoming more competitive and they want to improve their grades. Others take it because they don't have room in their schedule for as many courses as they would like to take, Kimberly Hicks, spokesperson for the York Catholic District School Board, said.

Another option on the rise is taking co-op education over the summer.

The number of students taking summer co-op has more than doubled to 45 over the past two years.

Grade 10 Newmarket student Danielle Copeman decided to take her co-op at a Richmond Hill veterinarian clinic for a sim-

ple reason.

"I wanted to know whether I liked it or not for the Grade 11 and 12 science courses," Ms Copeman explained.

Without the space in her timetable to do it during the school year, taking it in summer seemed logical.

Despite the increase in popularity of working through summer break, not everyone is chomping at the bit to leave high school earlier.

"My high school career was too short with the four years. We should enjoy what the school has to offer, whether it's social or life experience," said Justin Patterson, a Newmarket high school student graduating this year.

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