## A York student volunteer project Monday-children discovering many new joys

## **By WADE NESMITH**

The P.A. crackles.

"All those in sports, please go to the gym. All those in drama, please go to House two. All those who registered for astronomy, please come and see me in the Library.

Impending doom. Twelve anxious faces wondering why they are in the Library. "We can't have it, can we?"

"Well, the guy who was going to give it is really busy and he doesn't think he'll be able to make it. Maybe later he'll..." That was the scene as Monday opened its doors for its

second Friday session of this year. This drop-in centre is just one of the many projects which Monday is running or which they have on the drawing boards. But what is a "Monday"?

Essentially, Monday is a volunteer, student-run, community service group based at York. It was established about a year ago in an attempt to extend the university into the surrounding community and it has been a success from its

conception.

It is funded by various organizations and programs such as "Opportunities for Youth" who gave them a grant to operate a summer camp in an isolated area of the Gatineau Hills in Quebec. Here, Monday was basically attempting to introduce some kids who had spent all of their lives in the city to a new environment and lifestyle. Again, a success,

Every Friday, from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Monday operates a drop-in centre for nine to 12-year-olds at Shoreham Drive Public School. This school is situated in Egeley, the Ontario Housing project located just to the west of the campus. Although Egeley was designed as a model for future Ontario Housing communities, it is sadly lacking in recreational facilities; hence Monday's presence. A wide range of activities are offered to the kids; everything from pottery and tie-dying to judo and soccer.

In one area of the school, some kids are being taught some of the finer points of chess, while others are mastering the

niceties of ping-pong or darts. Down the hall a large group in a small room run around engrossed in the art of pottery. In the corner of another room, future actors and actresses display their talents in a rather loose pantomime while in the gym, cries of "drop your weight" can be heard as the kids do their best to imitate the kick of their judo instructor.

Obviously, this project encompasses a wide range of interests, but its scope is virtually unlimited. All it needs is volunteers. But this isn't the only effort in which Monday needs people. Their Big Brother program and teen drop-in centre are also understaffed. No special skills are required (although they wouldn't mind a mechanic to work on their bus). The only qualifications are time and a genuine desire to help. Monday holds regular meetings for new volunteers every Monday (appropriately enough) between three and five in N105, Ross. If you are busy then or aren't the meeting type, just drop into room N105 Ross, sometime and talk to them. They're nice people.



