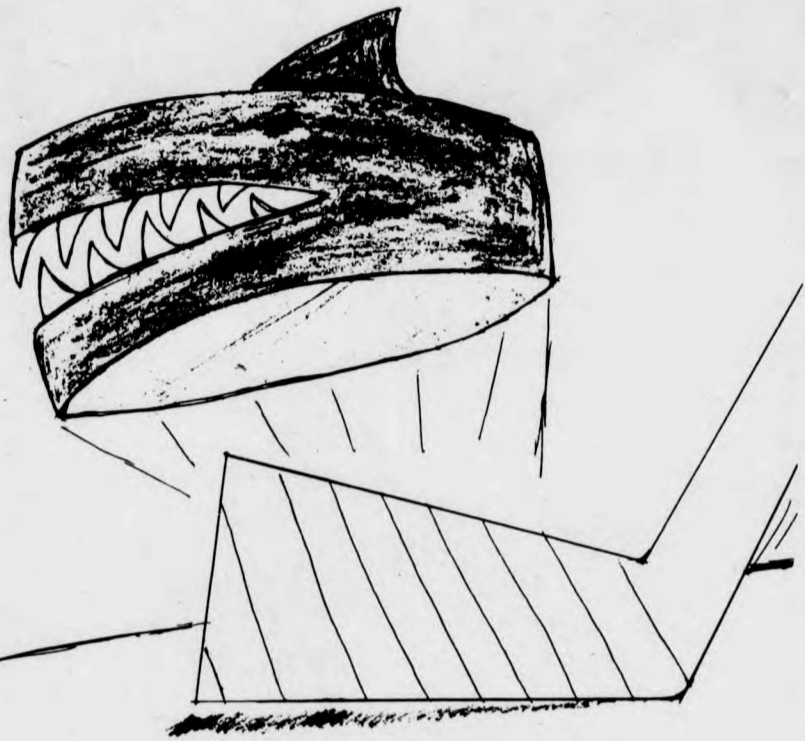


UNIVERSITY NEWSBEAT

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Hockey Violence Studied



Is illegal hockey violence, such as hitting with fists or the stick, part of the sport, or dispensable? The "hockey establishment" represented by men like NHL president John Ziegler claims that some violence is inevitable. York researcher Michael Smith disagrees, after considering the results from a study of the attitudes of 660 amateur and professional players, in which

he was aided by six graduate students and the Institute for Behavioural Research.

Smith, an associate professor of physical education and sociology, is a fan of the game, a hockey parent and association executive and someone who's spent so much time watching games that he "developed a permanent case of the sniffles." His research shows that violence is

learned by younger, amateur players from the bad example set by NHL players, and that it persists only because there are rewards for the aggressive player who is as fast with his fists as his skates.

In a paper explaining the Canada Council-funded research, Smith wrote: "We found ten-year-old Atoms who could handle heavy bumping picked for teams over other, more skilled . . . aspirants." Although many of the younger players surveyed said that they don't like fighting on the ice, they saw a demand for it from the coaches and scouts in more advanced leagues — and even from their own parents (in some cases).

Prof. Smith has been working on the question of hockey violence for several years, and served as a consultant to the William McMurtry Report on the subject. "There's surprisingly little research done on violence in sports. It's a good field in which to test out theories," he stated.

Prof. Smith found that the reasons given for violent outbreaks by the players themselves and the "establishment" who defended fights during the McMurtry inquiry — that they result from frustration experienced during a fast, highly competitive game, and that they are an instinctive release of tension — do not hold up under examination. "Within the context, violence is not an inevitable outcome of frustration. Research has shown many human cultures in which the

members seldom resort to violence no matter how frustrated they become," he said.

"Illegal violence exists because there are payoffs—you win games, the respect of peers, or your father, or at least you don't lose that respect through being called a 'chicken,'" he explained. Younger amateur players watch the NHL pros on television, and not only see their seniors achieving success and celebrity through violence, but even learn specific techniques of intimidating opponents.

Of the players interviewed, who ranged from peewee leagues through Junior A to active and retired NHL'ers, 56 per cent answered yes to the question: "Have you ever learned how to hit another player illegally in any way from watching pro hockey?"

Violence is not inevitable in hockey, but rather accepted as a feature of the North American version of professional hockey by some of its players and supporters. In Prof. Smith's view, "Violence can be stopped. There may be a few pathological or psychotic players, but the majority don't have to resort to violence."

How can it be controlled? Attorney-General Roy McMurtry applied legal pressure by instructing policemen to arrest players who assaulted others illegally. Although not a structural change in the game itself, this had some effect in Prof. Smith's view.

"I think it scared some players,

who used to act violently with impunity. At least it created a fair amount of debate about the issue — up to the last few years it was regarded as part of the game and inevitable," he said.

The historical question of whether the game is in fact more violent than a decade or two ago is not really answerable because of changes in rules and their enforcement. "The interesting thing that we found was that old-timers like to argue that their era was the roughest, and so do modern players," Prof. Smith laughed.

But there are ways to clamp down on violence in today's game. "To change things, there a number of possibilities. In order beginning with the least likely, we could pass legislation to label the game harmful to the health of those who consume it; the game could be altered by fans staying away, showing a mass disgust with fighting and illegal use of the stick; and the structure of the reward-cost results of violence could be turned around, so that violence becomes too costly through longer penalties, suspensions, and the disapproval of people important in the sport," he explained.

Prof. Smith will be publishing the results of his research in several papers, including one in a forthcoming book titled *Violence in Canada* edited by Mary A. Gammon. He hopes that public awareness of his research will, ultimately, lead to an improvement of the game he enjoys more than his sinuses can tolerate.

Footnotes

Reading Conference

Approximately 1500 teachers and experts in the field of reading skills will be meeting at York from February 13 to 17.

The conference is the eleventh annual gathering sponsored by the Centre for Continuing Education at York. Speakers from Canada, Great Britain and the United States will offer lectures and seminars on topics ranging from "Comic Books for Slow Learners" to "The Reading Process, Comprehension and Instructional Strategies".

Teachers and educators from across Canada are expected to attend. As well as in-depth seminars and feature presentations by more than 70 speakers and leaders, a large publishers' display of learning materials will be on view.

Participation in the conference is limited to registered delegates.

Gymn Coach Honoured

Sharon Tsukamoto, a former York student and Olympic gymnast, has received a \$2,500 scholarship to pursue coaching studies at the graduate level.

Ms. Tsukamoto will apply the Coaching Association of Canada scholarship to continued study at the University of Western Ontario

Faculty of Physical Education, specializing in gymnastics. As a varsity team gymnastics coach at York, she helped coach the women's team to the Ontario championship and second place in the national Finals.

She competed in the 1974 world championship in Bulgaria, the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, and several exhibition tours. Ms. Tsukamoto was a gold medalist in the 1971 Winter Olympic games, but was forced to retire from competition in 1975 after a severe injury.

Summer in Salzburg

Does summer school in Europe interest you? Two programs have been announced recently for this year in Norway and Austria.

The Norwegian school, Oslo International Summer School, takes place on the University of Oslo campus. Both general courses and graduate courses in Norwegian and Scandinavian studies are offered, with all lectures in English.

The term lasts from June 24 to August 6. Charter flights may be obtained to Norway for as little as \$400 return. For further details write Oslo International Summer School, North America Admissions Office, c/o St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota 55057, U.S.A.

The 22nd session of the Salzburg Summer School is scheduled from July 2 to August 12, in Salzburg, Austria. The school prospectus says: "The objective of the summer

program is to provide participants with an opportunity to learn German to have direct contact with Austrian folklore, culture and the Austrian way of life."

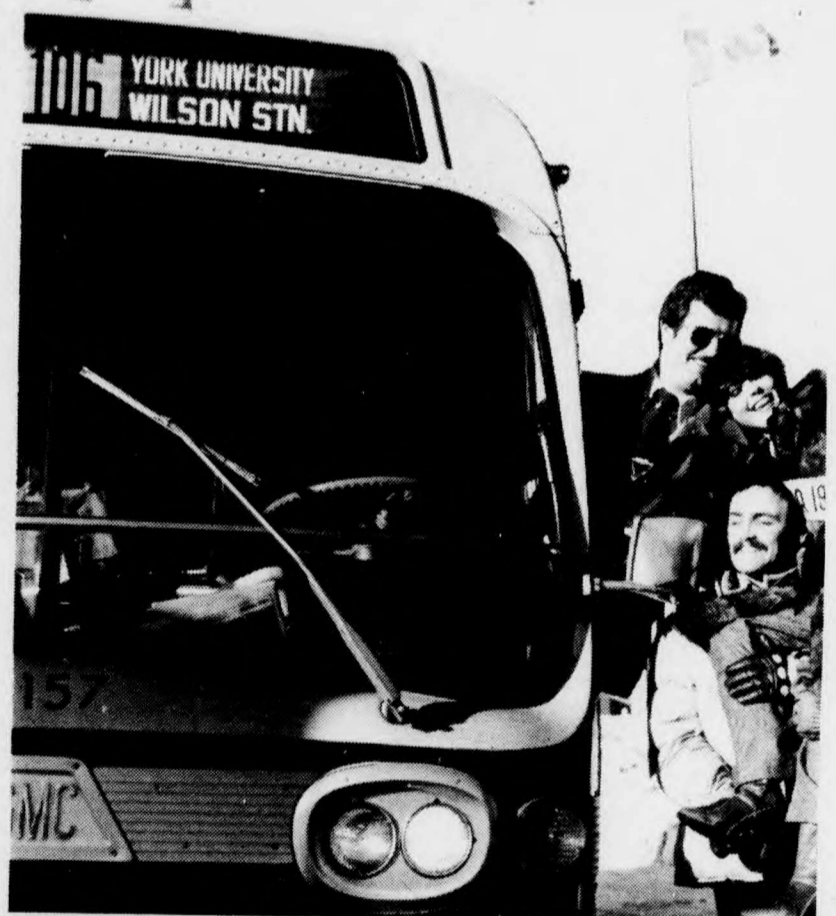
Courses, in German, are offered on Austrian and German subjects. Some scholarships are available for needy students; all students should be between the age of 18 and 40. Information and registration forms are sent from: the Austrian Institute, 11 East 52nd St., New York, N.Y. 10022, U.S.A.

OCUFA Awards

If you know of a teacher at York who deserves recognition for high-quality teaching and curriculum design or development, here's a chance to nominate that person for an award.

Nominations are sought for the 1978 OCUFA teaching awards. Recipients will be outstanding teachers at all levels of instruction within the universities. Individuals and groups should submit nominations, with as much supporting evidence as possible, to OCUFA Teaching Awards, 40 Sussex Avenue, Toronto M5S 1J7 by March 15.

York faculty members have won a large share of the awards in past years. In 1977, York professors Pierre Fortier (French, Glendon), Ron Sheese (psychology, Arts) and Christine Furedy (social science, Arts) received three of the total of fifteen awards.



What a balancing act! CYSF president Paul Hayden gives a boost to Catherine Swing, Miss Canada 1978 and a former York student, who congratulates the happy driver of one of the first weekday TTC 106 buses to visit York. The driver appears to be wearing an item of headgear not normally issued by the TTC.

York Pix Visit NY

One of the best known photo galleries in the world, the Neikrug Gallery of New York, will be featuring work by York students and faculty members.

The exhibition is titled "The

Canadian Connection", and presents photographs by 29 Canadian photographers. It runs from February 16 to March 18.

The York community members, all of them presently or formerly in the Visual Arts Department, include students Skylar Hill-Jackson and Jeff Nolte, former students George Bacznski and Valerie Burton, faculty members Michael Semak and Shin Sugino and former York photographer Kan Azuma.