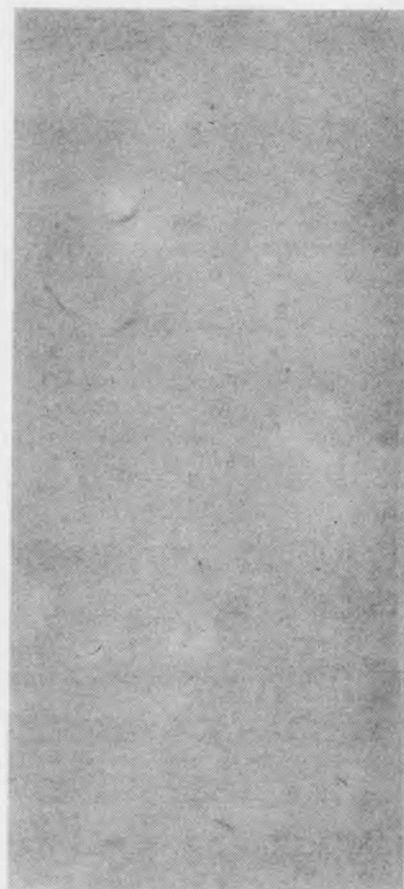




A sampling of Gary Hershorn's work: (Clockwise from top left) Bill Davis during his retirement ceremony; Former Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau being attacked by Jabber Jaws at Canada's Wonderland; President Ronald Reagan during visit to Quebec City; Pope John Paul II during 1984 cross-Canada tour; and Alex Baumann after clinching gold medal at 1984 Los Angeles Olympics.

**STORY BY
LORNE MANLY**



began that January and used freelancers. I went down to the offices but I was told I was green and they couldn't give me any assignments."

"But I guess he (Bob Carroll, UPC's picture editor for Canada) saw something he liked as he allowed me to go with their staff photographers to baseball games and other sporting events."

Building up these connections at UPC paid off that summer. Covering the Canadian Open Tennis Championships at York for *Excalibur*, Hershorn noticed there were no UPC photographers at the first day of the tourney. After calling UPC and discovering that no photographers were coming until the weekend, Hershorn offered his services on a freelance basis.

"I had three of the worst rolls of tennis pictures ever seen. They were out of focus, there was no ball in the picture—they were pitiful, except for one frame. It was a tight shot, the racquet up near the head, the ball going by the eyes, and it was a Canadian to boot (Marjorie Blackwood)."

The result—Hershorn had his first picture placed on the wire and both the *Ottawa Journal* and *Montreal Star* (two papers, Hershorn noted, that folded a short time later). "That one day and that one picture confirmed that I wanted to work at a wire service rather than a newspaper. Why work at one paper when you could work for a wire service and be in all the papers."

Bob Carroll told him to cover the tennis matches the next day too and gave Hershorn one piece of advice that had instant ramifications on the quality of his tennis pictures. "He told me to take the picture as soon as I see the ball in the frame. That one thing made all the difference—all the pictures then turned out great." Hershorn's pictures were transmitted each day that

week. Hershorn's short stint freelancing was supposed to come to an end that Saturday but all the UPC staffers were called away as former Prime Minister John Diefenbaker died. That left Hershorn to cover the tennis tourney right through to the Bjorn Borg-John McEnroe final, "a heck of a way to start for a wire service," Hershorn said.

Hershorn made the most of his opportunity. "I said to myself that I've got to use this week to prove to Bob I could do the job," Hershorn said, "as the main stringer moved to Vancouver just before the tennis tourney. That was my big break—seven full days of shooting tennis—and I proved to Bob I could do the job."

September rolled around and Hershorn headed back for his third year of university still doing freelance work for UPC. However, covering events such as Dar Robinson's jump off the CN Tower (which took days before the weather conditions were perfect) meant school become "absolutely secondary." UPC couldn't afford to have one of their staff photographers at the site all day with no assurance the jump would take place so Hershorn was sent instead.

But all the hours waiting proved worthwhile when *US* magazine picked up his picture. Coming on the heels of one of his pictures being published in *People* (Bobby Orr at the Bobby Orr Parade in Oshawa), Hershorn "was on cloud nine." Missing a whole week of school in the middle of September did not faze him at all; to Hershorn, "it was far more important to work for UPC."

Hershorn's first front page picture came soon after. Covering the Mississauga train derailment (where 500,000 residents were

evacuated after toxic chemicals were spilled) for a whole week, one of his photos was used by the *London Free Press* and *La Presse* in Montreal. This finalized Hershorn's decision that this was his last year at school. "I skipped just about every class; the year was a disaster, academic-wise."

Picture-wise, however, it definitely wasn't a disaster. While the full-time photographers were covering the 1980 federal election campaign, Hershorn took over the UPC staff in Toronto, covering all the major sporting and news events. Hershorn continued freelancing until May 1981 when UPC hired him on as a staff photographer.

"I loved working at UPC, I covered the 1981 Canada Cup, I went to Australia in 1982 for the Commonwealth Games, the LA Olympics in 1984 as well as Stanley Cups, Grey Cups, the patriation of the Constitution and the Queen's visit. We really gave CP a run for the money."

But in January 1985, UPC was bought out by CP. Instead of going to CP, though, Hershorn took the position of chief photographer in Canada for Reuters. (UPC had arrangements with UPI to supply pictures from Canada to the rest of the world. When UPC folded, Reuters took possession of UPI's foreign pictures service, and Hershorn was offered this newly-created position.)

Hershorn loves his work at Reuters nearly as much as at UPC. "There's a tremendous amount of freedom. It's a dream job, covering major events in Canada as well as some world events (he was at this year's World Cup in Mexico). You couldn't possibly make this job better—the only drawback is I'm not taking as many pictures because I have more administrative duties here."