

Neil Harvey:

Once the student, now the teacher

Drew Clarke

The York Yeomen swim team will be sporting a new look this year and one of the major changes comes in the person of Neil Harvey.

Harvey returns to York in the capacity of coach of the Yeomen after winning Yeoman of the Year honours in 1978 as a member of the swim team.

He brings valuable experience to York having swum competitively for fourteen years, including stints at Lakehead University and here at York.

He has gone on to coach Panama's National team and more recently has been an assistant coach of the Etobicoke Swim Club.

Recently, he shared some of his views on the state of Canadian university swimming and outlined his goals for York's upcoming swim season.

EXCAL: I suppose we should begin by welcoming Neil Harvey back to York U. How does it feel to be back in a coaching role at the school you once swam for?

N.H.: It feels good! I've been looking forward to the challenge since I was invited to take on the position.

EXCAL: About coaching Panama's National team. How did that come about and how did you find that experience?

N.H.: A lot of coincidences really. The previous coach there was Mike Ford, another Canadian (and York alumnus). He put me in contact with them and they took me on. Really, I was working for their government. It was a comfortable position. We (Panama Team) gained a lot of international experience at the Pan Am and Regional meets. It was a very different environment for me, even though I knew a bit of Spanish to begin with.

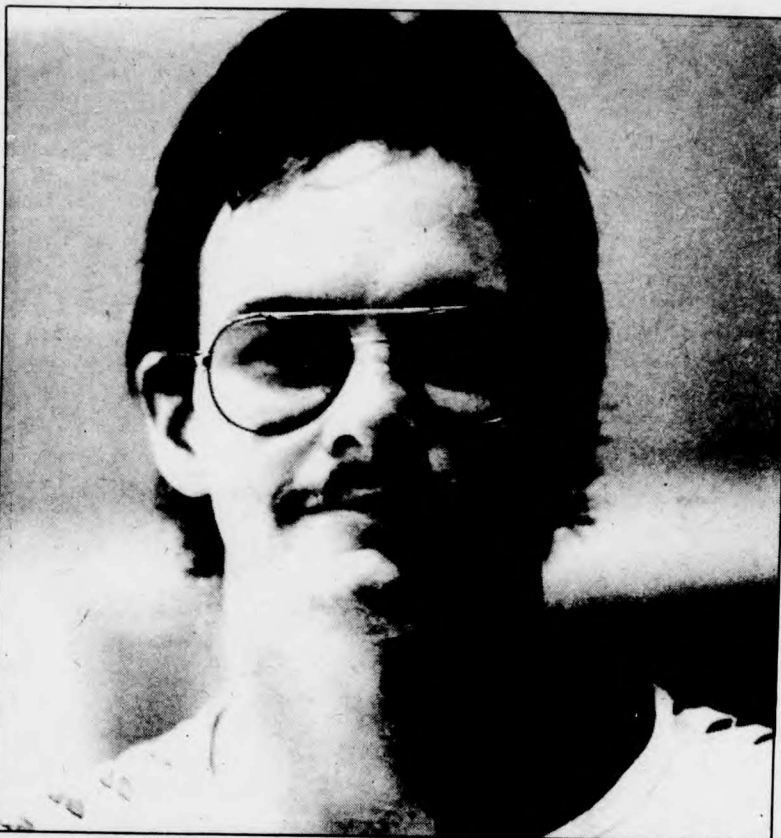
"I'm not wishy washy! I know what I want to do with this programme."

EXCAL: You've swum for such top notch world level coaches as Don Talbot (Lakehead U-1975) Have his methods or those of your other coaches influenced your own style?

N.H.: Any former athlete who becomes a coach looks back at his own coaches' methods. You look back and definitely learn something. I would say Talbot influenced me, yes. I'm not wishy, washy! I know what I want to do with this programme.

EXCAL: What then, is Neil Harvey's coaching philosophy?

N.H.: First of all, everybody is an individual at the university level of swimming. Everybody has different abilities and goals. I recognize that. Not everyone is a



Rose Crawford

Former Yeoman of the Year Neil Harvey, returns to York to take charge of the men's swim team.

CIAU level swimmer. I compare each individual's efforts to what I feel is their ability. I hope to talk to each swimmer and get an idea of their goals, what they want from the programme.

EXCAL: Are there any special aspects in the format of your training programme?

N.H.: We're running a basic five practice per week format. We'll include weight training, which I think is important as well.

There'll be a training camp at Fort Lauderdale, Florida after Christmas and for those who can't afford it there'll be opportunities to swim with the North York Aquatic Club. I also hope to get in some dryland sports from time to time when facilities are available.

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TO THE YORK COMMUNITY

This letter is addressed to those of you who do not yet know what CUEW ("Q-W") stands for.

We are the Canadian Union of Educational Workers, Local 3 here at York, a young union active and growing throughout Ontario. CUEW represents the interests of most of York's part-time instructors plus all teaching assistants who are full-time graduate students. Our 800 members compose a minority, but a vital minority, of York's teaching faculty.

As a trade union, CUEW's chief role is protection of the interests of our membership. The special nature of our teaching status, however, puts CUEW members in the forefront of certain debates which concern all members of the university community.

In the current climate of budget cutbacks it is our members who suffer first. Lacking any form of job security and paid at rates lower than the Ontario average for such work, our members' jobs and incomes provide the 'flexibility' which the University administration says that it needs in order to meet the funding limits set by the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. We are thus one of the first groups to feel the cold hard steel of the cutbacks which are coming for us all. (Who has not heard that rumours that even tenure is no longer secure?) The Ministry's tight money policy, moreover, has required that rising student enrollments be squeezed into ever increasing class sizes, the consequences of which are the unremunerated overwork of our members, among others, and a striking decline in the quality of education. (Some CUEW members report *tutorials* with more than 60 'participants'.) The administration's response to our overwork grievances is the directive that our members simply work less conscientiously at it: spend less time in preparation, grade papers more quickly, and so forth. The defence of our members' jobs and academic integrity

require CUEW to directly defend the quality of education in the face of budget cutbacks.

The recently released report of the Council of Ontario Universities (COU) seems to call upon the government to return to something like adequate funding of post-secondary education in Ontario. But, beneath the surface, this much-heralded report seems more concerned with calling upon universities to adapt to the present levels of spending. The 'economic realities' governing the views of both Ministry and COU are contradicted by the rising demand for university education. (At York, first-year enrollments in Arts are up 25%, while the Faculty intends to *reduce* spending by 1%.) The Ministry position, and that of the COU, are very much political positions, which it is our intention to address with a view to the needs and prospects of some alternative policy.

When away from the York setting, the university administration can be heard to criticize the Ministry's underfunding of Ontario universities, and, on occasion, to call upon others to take a stand against it. CUEW supports and encourages the administration in this regard, despite the "conflicts which must result from our consistent application of these methods here at York."

CUEW pursues these goals in our joint union-management Class Size Committee, during our annual negotiations, and through our support of Ontario Federation of Students (OFS), and other, campaigns against inadequate university funding. CUEW calls upon concerned members of the York community, students and support staff, administration and faculty, to support all efforts to bring university funding into line with the university's needs and requirements.

The CUEW Executive, Local 3



CANADIAN UNION OF EDUCATIONAL WORKERS

Local 3