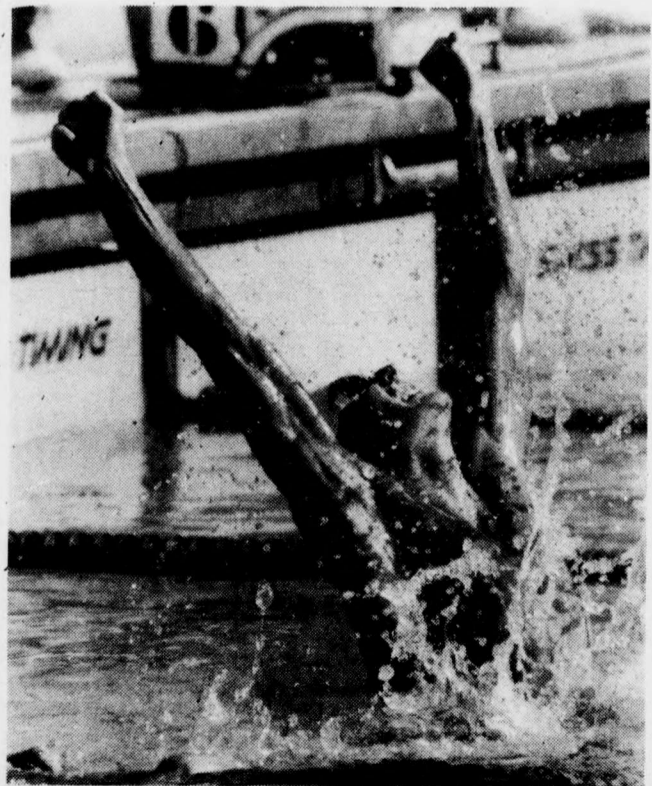




GARY HERSHORN: FROM EXCALIBUR TO REUTERS

The day Gary Hershorn walked in to *Excalibur's* offices nine years ago, becoming a professional photographer was the furthest thing from his mind. He had received a camera only that summer and knew nothing of the intricacies of picture-taking and developing. Today, the 28-year-old Hershorn is the chief photographer in Canada for Reuters



(a news agency that provides stories and pictures to subscribing publications, mainly newspapers), a long way from his modest beginnings at *Excalibur*.

Hershorn decided to volunteer for *Excalibur* three weeks into his first year at York. "I went in and talked to the editors that year (Paul Kellogg and Ted Mumford)," Hershorn remembered, "and I told them 'if you teach me how to use a camera, I'll take pictures.' I went in on a Thursday and the following day I took my first picture: it was of Paul Kellogg with five cigarettes in his mouth as they wanted a close-up for a smoking feature."

Hershorn had joined *Excalibur* "strictly to learn how to use a camera" with no intention of becoming a professional photographer or journalist. "But that one picture put a seed in my brain. It was exciting to take something and have it published."

As the months went by, Hershorn began doing more and more at the paper. With a "to hell with school" attitude, Hershorn skipped the majority of his classes, spending Monday and Tuesday nights at the paper. "I spent my first year doing different news stories, looking for front page pictures and I got involved with production nights."

At the end of his first year (the summer of 1978), Hershorn bought this own camera, a Canon F-1 with a *motor drive* because "real photographers have a motor drive." He returned to school that fall, deciding to get a degree in economics but "really majoring in *Excalibur*." "I realized just how much I hated school at my first economics class. I decided then to go full force into learning how to be a photographer."

The more pictures Hershorn took, the more he enjoyed him-

self. "There were a lot of good people working at *Excalibur* and it was nice to be a part of the paper, of the news process. It felt good to be involved." Hershorn then decided to venture out into the world of professional photography.

November 1978 represented Hershorn's first big break. Wanting to gain some experience freelancing, Hershorn called the *Globe and Mail* and spoke to Jim Vipond, the sports editor at the time, offering to cover York events on "spec" (paid upon publication). The *Globe* was then running a tabloid "Report on Sport", Saturdays and Mondays, and since most of the York games were on weekends, Hershorn saw an opportunity to gain more experience and make a little money. Vipond liked the idea and Hershorn began handing his photos into the *Globe*.

It did not take too long before Hershorn opened the paper on a Monday to see one of his volleyball pictures on an inside page. "That was it," Hershorn enthused, "I was in a daily paper and there was no turning back. That confirmed in my mind that I wanted to be a professional photographer."

All winter Hershorn contributed to the *Globe*, with one of his pictures appearing nearly every week. Then the *Globe* work stopped as Vipond retired and the new sports editor, Cec Jennings, wasn't as interested in having a freelancer at York. Jennings had his own staff photographers cover the events Hershorn was previously assigned.

But Hershorn shrugged off this setback and looked elsewhere for freelance work. "I gathered up enough courage to phone Canadian Press (wire service) in April 1979 to inquire about freelancing," Hershorn recalled, but he ran into a dead-end. "I then phoned a new wire service UPC (United Press Canada) that