

FRANK GIORNO



Let's be  
Frank

Larry Burns is 52 years old, he is an articulate man with a commanding knowledge of modern history and politics. You might say he is self-taught.

Larry is a theatre buff and enjoys gardening as a hobby. He sounds like your average middle class Canadian, who puts in his hours at the office, but he isn't. Larry works as a waiter on the Canadian CP's token passenger train. He is an extraordinary man.

In a society where we stress status jobs, Larry is quite content with his.

As long as I get paid adequately for what I'm doing I'm satisfied," he says.

*Money, not status  
is important*

"If a person works hard to support himself and knows that he is the best in his field he has something to be proud about.

"I know I'm the best waiter and I'm proud of that. Any job is worth taking as long as the money is right. When you really get down to it money is what our society is all about. How much status does an athlete have in our society? But look at the money he makes."

Larry doesn't live for money, however. "I like money for what it can do for you. Money allows me to enjoy my leisure time and that's what I live for. It's a means to an end.

"So is my job. It makes it possible for me to purchase theatre tickets. But although it's a means to an end, it is also my source of pride. There is no way that I'd sit at home and wait for my unemployment cheque to come, I'd rather work as a dishwasher than do that."

*No-one today could  
understand the depression*

Part of Larry's views were shaped by his memories of the depression and the rationing of food during the Battle of Britain.

"I don't expect students or any one who didn't live through the depression to understand what it was like, but some people were begging for work; they were willing to grab anything that came along."

Our society doesn't really make examples of people such as Larry Burns does for a living. In part this attitude is what forced one Canadian farmer to import farm help from Mexico during last summer's harvest.

*We're producing a  
generation of snobs*

Let's face it, our society is producing a generation of snobs. We pay lip service to the working man, we even give him his own special day in September, but on the whole, we are unwilling to join the Labour Day Parade.

# Election '76: "Bringing student gov't back to the students"

Continued from page 1

How would he respond to a Draft Bell campaign?

"I've never been a draft dodger," he laughed. "Seriously, I don't know; it'd be a new experience. If I run, I run to win. It's always a risk — it hurts if you lose, but someone has got to take the risk."

Bell, who has been active in student politics for several years, is past president of, among other things, the Ontario Student Liberals. Bell claims that if he runs he can count on support from moderate NDPers, from Liberals and "even from Conservatives". York NDP club chairman Barry Edson, for example, has declared that he would personally support Bell's candidacy.

Another major and as yet only rumoured wrinkle in the spring election campaign is the possibility that a consortium of college councils (Winters, Vanier, McLaughlin and Founders) will combine to run a full slate of candidates for the CYSF.

Founders president Izadore Musallam is firmly in favour of the idea but is having trouble convincing his counterparts at the other colleges to go along with him.

"Yes, it's an idea we've kicked around," said Winters president Kelly Allen, "but I don't like the idea of party slates on campus."

Since last fall, the college councils of complex one have been involved in an investigation into the structure of student government at York, with particular emphasis on the affairs of the CYSF. A preliminary draft of their report should be released in the near future and will presumably shed some light on the role the councils will play in this year's election.

Many of the independent prospective candidates are counting on benefiting from the anti-ULC vote. And what should be among the ULC's major strengths — its visibility — may prove to be its greatest liability. Most prospective candidates for CYSF president have suffered their slings of outrageous fortune in relative obscurity. The ULC has not. Even highly placed members of the coalition admit that its image is in need of drastic cosmetic surgery. They are confident of their policies but feel that there is a great deal of public relations fence-mending to be done.



Barry Edson

The ULC took a severe beating in December's election of student representatives to the board of governors. It ran two candidates, Robert Kasher and Hemraj Ramdath who lost by a landslide margin to the independent candidates, Jay Bell and Shelley Rabinovitch. Ironically, Bell and Rabinovitch ran on a reform platform incorporating many ULC policies.

In an analysis of the election, York NDP club chairman Barry Edson said that the student body is



Gail Silzer

sympathetic to the ULC platform (which includes such proposals as staff-student-faculty control of the universities and free and universal access to post-secondary school education). "But students resent the way the ULC packages its policies," he said.

Gail Silzer, a first-year student from McLaughlin and finance vice-president on the CYSF, will probably carry the ULC banner in this year's election. She admits that the ULC has an image problem.

"The coalition has been identified as a radical organization — which it isn't. Partly, this is so because people have tended to see the ULC as 'Dale Ritch's party'; people haven't separated Dale and the ULC."

Relatively unknown outside the CYSF, Silzer considers herself a moderating influence on the coalition. "I don't think a radical approach to issues should be taken until all else fails," she said. "I'm probably more tactful than Dale."

Clearly, the ULC is undergoing a metamorphosis. Abie Weisfeld, who for years has been the Keith Davey or Dalton Camp of the student left at York, offered this analysis of the shift in emphasis of the ULC:

"The ULC currently comprises two generations of student radicals — those who came through the student movement of the 60s and those who are undergraduates today. The old left emphasized a wide range of political and ideological issues. But the present generation tends to stress economic issues such as student aid and government funding to universities. My chief concern now is to see that the transition of power from the old generation to the new is effected smoothly and efficiently."

Weisfeld and Dale Ritch are the chieftains of the old guard in the ULC. But their influence is waning and they recognize it. For his part, Ritch will support Gail Silzer as the ULC candidate for CYSF president if she decides to run.

Across the political spectrum at York there is a mounting desire to bring student government back to the students, to focus the student movement on campus issues. There is also a significant heightening of political awareness and enthusiasm. For example, the board of governors election in December drew over 1,000 voters — the highest turn-out ever for a by-election at York.

The high turn-out in December may reflect an anti-ULC backlash,

or it may be evidence of an increased concern among students over the future of universities in Ontario. In any event, the moderate left seems to have attracted the lion's share of this burgeoning political sentiment. (Over 70 per cent of York student voters in the last provincial election went NDP.) And, call it political opportunism if you will, both the Progressive Students' Movement and the ULC, in addition to the majority of the independent presidential hopefuls, will direct their prospective campaigns toward exploiting this sentiment. Witness these statements:

Shadow candidate Frank Giorno: "I've often been called radical but I'm not. I see a lot of positive things in our system."

ULC member and presidential hopeful Gail Silzer: "You're going to see the NDP becoming a lot more active in the ULC; the coalition is experiencing a moderating shift. The political mood on campus is somewhere between Liberal and NDP."

Progressive Student Movement presidential candidate Curtis Thomas: "We're definitely not radical socialist. On the political scale, I'd say we were liberal pushing toward socialist."

There are only two prospective candidates who could be called right-wing: Paul Hayden and Gord Travers.

Hayden's campaign, if he launches one, will be geared toward opposing the ULC. "Students are fed up with the off-campus political involvement of the ULC," he said. "Also this year the student council has alienated the university administration, but the administrators have all the bullets — you've got to work with them."

Gord Travers, who, because of his continuing efforts to tighten security on campus, has been jokingly referred to as a one-man vigilante group, is also counting on picking up anti-ULC votes.

"I'm left but I'm right," he says. "A lot of my policy ideas are left but the way I'd implement them could be considered right. On the whole, I'm a little bit right of centre."

If the ULC is unsuccessful in convincing students of the sincerity of its shift toward political moderation (and time is running out), the anti-ULC stance of Hayden and Travers may be a significant factor in the spring. At the moment, however both are long-shot candidates. Neither is



Frank Giorno

confident that he has a sufficient power-base to warrant running.

Paul Kellogg, who earlier this year was widely considered the natural candidate to pick up the ULC torch from Dale Ritch, is quickly falling out of contention. Even he admits that finance vice-president Gail Silzer would probably be a better selection. Although is still a significant force in the formation of ULC policy, there is speculation among ULC members that Kellogg (a contributor to Excalibur and this year's editor of the sporadic Founders Crow) has his heart set on next year's editorship of Excalibur.

It is also possible that Kellogg's politics (which, according to Silzer, are even more radical than Dale Ritch's) don't sit well with the growing contingent of ULC members who are trying to moderate the coalition's image.

A lot can and no doubt will change between now and mid-march but, as one peers from the depths of winter toward the election in the spring, this is what one sees:

Gail Silzer will capture the spot as ULC presidential candidate. Almost immediately, the ULC will gain in popularity. Its shift toward moderation will be abrupt but convincing, if only because Silzer has good connections with both liberal and NDP elements on campus. As Silzer's presence becomes more visible, this increase in ULC support will become even more drastic. Silzer looks like a "safe" candidate. She is well-groomed, attractive, soft-spoken, wholesome.

As ULC-support grows, there will be increased pressure from liberal factions on Jay Bell to run. He probably will.

The Progressive Students' Movement will no doubt pick up some of the liberal support spilling over from Bell's campaign. It is difficult at this point to tell how much.

Most of the shadow candidates will drop out of the race. Frank Giorno may stay in; so may Paul Hayden. And Hayden will become the sole exponent of the right wing. However, he will not be a significant factor, as student sentiment will tend more and more toward the progressive reforms offered by Bell and Silzer. At the wire, it will be Bell and Silzer — a photo finish.

That's the election picture, 1976 — with two months to go.