

Election night

# In defeat, jubilation; in victory, restraint

## Barry Edson

By DAVE FULLER

Silence prevailed at the Edson Team headquarters last Wednesday night as news of their election sweep filtered into an anxious but strangely subdued camp of supporters.

Across the hall, members of the United Left Slate were enjoying another gathering of the clan, apparently oblivious to the defeat they had suffered at the polls.

Although various Edson followers tried to rouse the sober spirits of their number, incoming results from the returning officer rarely produced more than a brief cheer followed by more beer and still more quiet chat.

Barry Edson, new president elect of CYSF sat motionless surrounded by fellow party workers and offered this analysis of his team's quiescent mood: "We ran a quiet campaign and our candidates were very serious about the whole thing."

Breaking into a restrained grin, Edson added that the main concern of the whole group was

the presidential race which he said was in doubt until the very end. "We knew we would win in the colleges," he said, "but we were worried that (Izidore) Musallam's vote would split our support and leave (Gael) Silzer in the clear."

Jay Bell, Edson's campaign manager, repeatedly tried to predict the outcome of the contest based on results from the college run-offs. However, he too was unaware of the stunning victory that lay only hours away.

Looking back on the campaign Bell noted that there was much concern over the negative effect of the more sordid events of the past week. Referring to the charges that he had tried to bribe Vanier council president Kevin Smith, Bell said "We were worried about it, even though there was no truth to it."

Earlier in the day, Edson made a quick tour of the polls trying to glean a hint of what lay in store.

Still suffering from the after-effects of the flu and a tem-

perature that had hospitalized him late Saturday night, Edson coughed and hacked his way over to Complex I and found that the voter response gave every indication of breaking last year's record turnout of 1,100.

Later that evening, Edson met with runner-up Gael Silzer and offered his congratulations on her impressive effort, never giving more than a hint of elation or joy.

Candidates and supporters meandered over to the party down the hall, congratulating one another, but still not displaying much joy.

At the end, Edson finally revealed that he had at least come to some realization of what had actually transpired. He shrugged his shoulders and said, "Well, I guess I can get back to my exams now that it's over."

Down the hall, peals of laughter were finally creeping into the silence that had filled the dark hallway only a few minutes before.



## Gael Silzer

By IAN MULGREW

Gael Silzer and the ULS staged an impressive campaign, but when the smoke cleared, it was not enough.

The ULS campaign began last Wednesday at Vanier. The all-candidates' debate there showed that the ULS was not quite on track: not one of its candidates was there.

"It was just a mix-up in our communications," claimed Dale Ritch, the outgoing president.

The "Big Red Machine", however, quickly found the tracks and started to build up steam.

Canvassing the residences, poster, handshaking, all helped stroke the boilers as the engine thundered confidently onward.

Every candidates' meeting after Vanier showed that the ULS was prepared. Gael Silzer came supplied with rhetoric, notes and a gallery of supporters.

So overwhelming was the ULS support at the debates that a speaker, at the presidential debate in the bearpit, exclaimed,

"The lineup to the microphone is beginning to read like the ULS honour role."

Before the polls closed on Wednesday, ULS members were optimistic, to say the least. When the first tip scrambled out of the counting room, however, optimism turned to gloom.

Rumour had it that 1,700 people had voted, one-third of which had come from Complex I. The ULS had never seen Complex I as its stronghold and a heavy turn-out there was considered a bad omen.

Fears were allayed somewhat when it was revealed that only 1,500 had voted. The party at the CYSF offices continued. The ULS members were confident. At 8:30 p.m. it was known that two out of three in the Calumet election were ULS members and that the ULS had swept the graduate positions.

The tide began to turn, however, at 9:30 p.m. Silzer began to look worried as it was announced that the Edson Team had swept in MacLaughlin. The party continued — singing, dan-

cing, laughing.

At 11 o'clock, it was clear: the ULS had been shut out of Founders, Vanier and Stong. But the party continued singing, dancing, laughing.

At midnight, it was over. The party continued, but it was over. The ULS had been shut out of every college save Calumet. Sarcastic victory speeches interrupted the dancing, terse comments replaced the singing, but the music continued.

The hardest news hit at about 12:45: Edson was the new president. Silzer spoke immediately.

"We ran the best campaign. We ran the best candidates. It's hard to be serious. We've worked hard and we'll work hard next year. After the students have had a mickey mouse government for a year, they'll be glad to have us back."

The party continued singing, dancing, laughing. The ULS, while not winning the election, had the best spirit. Singing, dancing, laughing.



## Izidore Musallam

By FRANK GIORNO

From the atmosphere at Izidore Musallam's campaign headquarters one couldn't tell that he had come in third and last in the CYSF election. People were singing folk songs, having a good time, they all felt that he had run a strong campaign and there was nothing to be ashamed of. He was the loner in a race between organized parties.

Still, if one cut a bit deeper, resentment was there. How could Edson, a man who earned the reputation of being a weak speaker, at all the candidates' debates have won so decisively?

Animosity between Izo's camp and the Edson team developed early in the campaign. On the word of Founders student Matthew Fisher, Izo claimed that the Edson Team had offered Vanier College president Kevin Smith a position on next year's executive if he withdrew from the race.

Later on in the campaign, Edson was alleged to have called Izo a "stinker". Love was lost between the centre and the right in their attempts to unseat the

ULCers.

The Bearpit session on Tuesday was a boost to Musallam's hopes though. Heading into election day, the Musallam supporters from Founders college, his home base, were optimistic about his chances.

Izo himself was pleased. He spent the morning walking to the polls in Central Square, seeing what the turn-out was like.

However, the strain was beginning to show. Both he and Daryl Yurek, his campaign manager, had had very few hours of sleep the last couple of nights. But there would be a party that night, win or lose.

As the first trickling of results arrived from the chief returning officer on Wednesday night, Izo was not to be found. His party had gathered in an apartment near the campus.

The early results caused a bit of a stir among them as the announcement that the Edson Team had just swept their home college left them disappointed.

In the presidential race, early indications showed Izo trailing. And it soon became apparent, that for Izo the game was over. He walked in at about 11:30 and conceded defeat.

Referring to Edson's imminent victory, Musallam said, "Having a loser as a winner makes me sick. This will be the weakest council ever, with Edson being a puppet on a string."

The general feeling in the Musallam camp was that, since there was such a low turn-out at most of the all-candidates' meetings in which Edson performed poorly, the determining factor in Edson's success was what they felt to be pro-Edson coverage of the presidential race carried in Excalibur.

Asked if he was going over to shake hands with the victor, Izo replied, "I'm not going to shake hands with someone who called me a stinker. But the elections are over. I'll play my guitar."

The feelings of bitterness were pushed aside and the gloom of defeat was replaced by song, drink and laughter.

