

FRANK
GIORNO

Let's be Frank

Ever run into your prof in a tavern away from campus? Or have you ever met someone by accident when his defenses were down?

We tend to meet people when they are socially prepared. We go to parties showing our best wit and manner; we're introduced to people in a very stylized and conventional way; we are always preparing to impress our peers.

Let's face it. It's all show. We expect people we meet to behave in a certain manner, but, perhaps the best way of meeting people is through spontaneous situations.

Catching people socially unprepared can be very enlightening as well as highly amusing. For instance, what would happen if you accidentally spilled your lunch tray on the lap of that familiar face in the cafeteria? Spontaneous reaction would take place.

After an exchange of "sorry it was all my fault" you can go back to classes knowing that you have broken the ice as well your plate and glasses.

But, at least you have succeeded in meeting the source of your lunchtime curiosity.

On the buses, the chances of impromptu meetings through accidents are numerically greater than in the cafeteria, especially if the bus is packed.

Say you just happen to glance over your shoulder and who do you spy sitting across the aisle but that radiant smile that you've seen since early September. A sudden jerk of the bus and what d'you know, you're thrown onto his/her lap. Take it from there; strike up a conversation.

Accidents, however, do have certain drawbacks. It takes the co-operation of both parties involved to make meetings of this type successful.

Another, more subtle, way of meeting someone is by frequenting the stomping grounds of the wood, for instance, the Absinthe or the Argh, choosing an adjacent table and staring at the source of your fascination. Try to attract his/her attention by coughing or banging your spoon on the table. This may take some time but once he/she is staring back, make a funny face or wriggle your eyebrows.

This will force your captive dream to laugh at your silliness. There is no better way to break the ice than a good chuckle. This method is not recommended for intellectuals or other serious people. There is nothing more ludicrous than a philosophy major wriggling his eyebrows while reading Kant's Critique of Pure Reason.

The eye-contact-make 'em laugh approach may be too slow for some of you take-charge types who would think it dull to sit in the Argh for a prolonged period of time, or too uncouth for some of our urbane readers. For the he-man or she-woman, we recommend the direct approach. This is where you incorporate your nighttime fantasies and, using a firm, husky but self-assured voice, say, "I find you irresistible, show me to your bedroom".

Ed Broadbent, taking on Libs over controls

After just four months as leader, Broadbent is charged with the task of consolidating opposition to the government's prices and incomes restraints

By JULIAN BELTRAME

By five past noon, Friday, the lecture hall in Curtis was full, the mikes were mounted and Ed Broadbent was descending to the front of the hall, flanked by a bearded Michael Copeland, the York professor who has twice run unsuccessfully for a federal seat on the NDP ticket and Barry Edson, president of the university NDPers.

Sitting to the left of Copeland, Broadbent watched the mike being placed in front of him.

"I don't need a microphone," he told the attendant, then his eyes scanned the room, seeking out faces in the crowd. How many votes were here to be gained? Five or fifty?

WINS LEADERSHIP

Broadbent had won the leadership of his party just four months earlier, taking over from the likeable and bubbly David Lewis, who was unceremoniously bumped from party politics in 1974 when the voters in his riding failed to return him as a member of Parliament.

Lewis was the second consecutive NDP leader to fall victim to the changing whims of the voters. For Lewis it was a heart-breaking loss, coming just two short years after he had taken the federal NDP party to its highest mark, and bumping the Liberal party from majority rule with a single slogan — "corporate welfare bums".

Now it was left to Broadbent to restore his party to a position of respectability. Just four months after his election as party leader Broadbent was thrown into the political arena as the only true opposition to the government policy. At York, he seemed wary of his role.

A WORKERS' PAST

Copeland told the largely sympathetic crowd about Broadbent — his rise from '68 when he narrowly defeated a former PC cabinet minister to win his Oshawa riding, to '74 when he won his riding by 10,000 votes. A man from a workers' family who had studied economics at the London School of Economics, as had Pierre Trudeau, and earned the leadership of the national workers' party.

For Broadbent, the York stop was just another speech in a tour of speeches bent on trying to

build opposition to Trudeau and his government's incomes and prices restraints policy.

SCHOOL FOR SOCIALISM

"Someone asked me if both Trudeau and myself studied at the London School of Economics, how come he came out a liberal and I came out a socialist? Because Mr. Trudeau has always been a poor student," quipped Broadbent, easing himself into the text of the speech.

Broadbent was at York to prove that Trudeau was more than just a poor student, but a poor Prime Minister as well. His three-pronged attack — that the state of the economy was ample proof of Trudeau's inability to govern; that prices and incomes restraints could not reverse the sour economic trend, and that the recently introduced legislation was unfair to working people.

ABYSMAL PROGRAMME

Restraints was Trudeau's "most recent abysmal programme" in a series of abysmal programmes, Broadbent told the crowd.

The four economic indicators (economic growth, housing, unemployment and inflation) only too clearly demonstrated the government's inability to manage the economy. For the past year and a half, Canada had had — zero or negative economic growth — housing starts have decreased and mortgage rates have escalated — unemployment is at its highest level (700,000) since 1940 — and inflation has been in a constant climb, Broadbent pointed out.

"For a country that is self-sufficient in energy and with such a high standard of education, there is no excuse for not having coped better."

He cited two possible arguments the government could use to justify their restraints programme — an inflationary spiral caused by high wage settlements, and dwindling trade markets caused by inflationary price increases, effectively making Canadian products uncompetitive in world markets.

Both arguments, noted Broadbent, were unfounded.

In the past three years, wages have increased by 36 per cent (12 per cent annually), but the cost of living has made a similar



NDP leader Ed Broadbent, speaking at Curtis.

gain, 33 per cent. Furthermore, "wage and salary increases in the past three years have followed cost of living increases," he pointed out, "therefore, they did not cause inflation" but came as a result of inflation.

"Overwhelmingly, our trade with the U.S. has been in the area of raw materials, where the wage component plays a very insignificant part," said Broadbent. "In which case, our trade position is not affected by wage and salary increases. So there are the two arguments which would have given the government a case justifying wages and incomes restraints." But, since both arguments can be discredited, "the government doesn't have a case."

BEST TEST

"The best test of a political and economic programme is the reaction it receives from different interest groups. Trudeau's programme was supported by industrialists, the Bank of Canada and the Progressive Conservatives, and was opposed by trade unions, poverty groups and the NDP."

"That tells you who that programme works against."

The last of Broadbent's arguments — that the government's legislation was unworkable will serve the NDP well come next election year, should restraints still be in force.

WELFARE BUMS

It was reminiscent of Lewis' "corporate welfare bums" slogan, for Broadbent's points makes liberal use of everyman's suspicions that the rich and powerful will out-fox the government. After all, the rich have the lawyers and the know-how to

juggle the books.

Broadbent criticized the government for not introducing legislation that will effectively control the incomes of professionals — lawyers, doctors, engineers — as well as, misleading the country into believing they could control prices.

"Galbraith said that what you can do in the case of non-competitive sectors in the economy is put a freeze on prices until such time as the companies can justify increases. Trudeau has turned that idea on its head and put the onus on the people of Canada to show that prices are not justified."

A JOKE?

"It would be just a joke if it weren't too serious."

According to the NDP leader any corporation that shows "unusual productivity gains", does not "anticipate unfavourable cost developments", "expands and has an export market", or has a parent company in the U.S., will be capable of evading price restraints.

"What it amounts to is that the part of the programme that is required to control prices will not control prices. What Trudeau has done is bring in a programme that will control salaries and wages and will not control prices," said Broadbent.

"The programme is bad because it's unfair."

A polite applause followed. Broadbent had made his point but at the same time he disappointed many of the ardent leftists in his audience. He left many doubting the inevitability of a resurrection of the federal NDP party.

Letters To The Editor

All letters should be addressed to the Editor, c/o Excalibur, room 111 central Square. They must be double-spaced, typed and limited to 250 words. Excalibur reserves the right to edit for length and grammar. Name and address must be included for legal purposes but the name will be withheld upon request. Deadline: Mon. 5 p.m.

Excalibur insults women, reader charges

I'd like to make a number of constructive criticisms in regard to the last issue of Excalibur.

Essentially, I felt that a couple of pages (not including advertising) were totally wasted. In particular, the entire front page was a childish write off, and the 'editorial' page followed a very close second, although I can't really make up my mind as to which one was worse.

FANTASY AND SEX

The editorial page carried over the fantasies from the cover, but was also blatantly sexist. There is enough sexist garbage in this society with its degradation of women that the Excalibur need not compete with. The feminist movement has fought the sexism typified by beauty contests for years. The Excalibur, instead of insulting women's dignity, should champion the fight against

women's oppression.

CREDIBILITY GAP

I don't think that this sort of material helps to "lighten" the paper, but only smears its dying credibility in the eyes of its readers. The staff also tends to be implicated by the editors' decisions, in spite of the microscopic disclaimer.

On the constructive side, I also think that the paper should carry more serious and pertinent ar-

ticles which concern students. I would suggest material dealing with the student housing crisis, women's liberation and the harmful effects wage controls will have on students.

I hope that other students who may share some of my views will write to and for the paper to ensure that what happened in the last issue will never occur again

David Johnson
York Young Socialists