

# Opinion

## Sovereignty is no longer an issue

So now the Parti Quebecois wants to change the question. Perhaps it's time the politicians in Quebec realized that the people in Quebec don't want to leave Canada.

No matter how the PQ and Bloc Quebecois try to slice it, their dream of a sovereign Quebec is not going to come true.

The reason is the people who live in the province just aren't buying the separatist babble any longer. They know a good thing when they see it.

This country, with all its faults, all its petty, nasty little differences and jealousies, is still the best place in the world to live. An island of Quebec, alone in the sea of North Amer-



Viewpoint

Alan Shackleton

ica, simply makes no sense.

And the Parti Quebecois knows it too. That's why they want to change the question.

Now they want to make economic union with Canada a part of the referendum question. Why don't they just give up the whole idea?

The latest in this continuing

nonsense is a push by many within the Quebec sovereignty movement to delay the referendum until the political climate will make their prospects of winning better. To achieve that, I'm sure they'll create some constitutional crisis to raise the hackles of Quebecers while at the same time prompting virulent anti-French Canadian comment from those elements of English Canada which can be relied upon to rise to such a bait.

The average Canadian is sick to death of the sovereignty issue, and for a good part of our population it means nothing.

Immigrants from other parts of the world will certainly find the history of the Plains of Abra-

ham fascinating, but the "two solitudes" of French and English hold little relevance to them. It's 1995, and we're still squabbling over a battle which took place in 1759.

We should be looking towards the future, but we're letting ourselves get caught up in the problems of the past. We have to start dealing with free trade, the global marketplace, our own deficit woes, and the ever-shrinking world around us. This ridiculous debate on Quebec sovereignty is not helping our economy one bit.

Let's move forward. Let's make Quebec end this thing once and for all and get on with the business of being Canada.

## Bloopers 'off and running' in radio career

I am a radio person. Every week I put on my cleanest t-shirt, stumble down to my radio studio and babble for an hour and a half in between spinning discs.

Allow me to enumerate some of the great benefits of being a radio person.

1. You don't have to dress up. I mean...look at this t-shirt.
2. You don't need a strong back. Even your heaviest script couldn't weigh in at more than one, one and a half kilos, tops.
3. It's not a dangerous job. What are the hazards? Microphonelash? Scriptburn?
4. Your mother won't give you a hard time about being a radio person. True, she'd rather you had a trade, like plumbing or beating up Somalis, but at least you're warm and dry. And you're not consorting with those brazen TV hussys.
5. It's a job. Moms forgive anything that yields a regular paycheque.

There are innumerable benefits in being a radio person, but there are hazards too. More to the point, there is one hazard.

The Bloopers.

Bloopers are to Radio Persons what rabies is to foxes, Parizeau is to Chretien and Roseanne is to good taste.

Bloopers are the herpes of radio broadcasting.

Worst blooper ever? Well, I'm certainly glad that I'm not Harry Von Zell. Mister Von Zell was a great American radio broadcaster. Right up until the time he had to introduce the president of the United States, live on national radio.

Von Zell intoned sonorously: "Ladies and gentlemen, may I present the president of the United States, Mister Hoobert Heever."

Merv Griffin, the game show host, once all but scuppered his TV career by beginning an Exlax-sponsored show with the introduction "Well, we're off and running..."



Basic Black

Arthur Black

Canadian radio types seem to have a curious affinity for the blooper.

I remember listening, slack jawed, to the CBC announcer who encouraged his listeners to "stay stewed for the nudes."

Then there was the Ottawa correspondent who attributed a rumored Cabinet shuffle to "high Parliament Hill souses".

And the CBC news reader (alas, no longer with us) who signed off for the night, saying "This...is the Canadian Broadcasting Castration!"

I always wondered where the blooper came from. And thanks to a writer named Richard Lederer, I finally have the answer.

Lederer is the author of a number of books - his latest is called Classroom Classics - More Anguished English. It's a compilation of linguistic bloopers committed by students at the junior high, high school and college levels.

And it proves conclusively that Bloopers have their roots in our school system.

For instance, the science student who wrote on an exam: "when you smell an odorless gas, it is probably carbon monoxide."

Or the student who advised "There are three kinds of blood vessels: arteries, vanes and caterpillars."

Or the astronomical jade who observed: "The moon is a planet just like the earth, only deader."

And how about the biology student who asserted: "The body consists of three parts - the brainium, the borax and the abominable cavity. The brainium contains the brain; the borax con-

tains the heart and lungs and the abominable cavity contains the vowels, of which there are five - a, e, i, o and u."

Just think...that student might be doing your hernia operation next spring.

And judging from Lederer's book, I don't think students are as sexually sophisticated as we've been led to believe.

Witness the agricultural scholar who wrote: "artificial insemination is when the farmer does it to the cow instead of the bull."

Or the undergraduate who opined: "to prevent conception, always wear a condominium."

Which I supposed could only lead to the ultimate sexual avoidance excuse: "Not tonight dear. I have a penthouse."



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**PATRICIA PAPPAS,**  
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**ANDREW MAIR,**  
General Manager and Editor

**JO ANN STEVENSON,**  
Editor-in-chief

**ALAN SHACKLETON,**  
Editor

**DEBRA WELLER,**  
Director of Advertising

**BARRY GOODYEAR,**  
Director of Distribution

**VIVIAN O'NEIL,**  
Business Manager

**PAMELA NICHOLS,**  
Operations Manager

Markham 294-2200,  
Stouffville 640-2100,  
Uxbridge 852-9741  
294-8244 distribution  
9 Heritage Rd. Markham L3P 1M2  
FAX: Markham 294-1538, Stouffville  
640-5477, Uxbridge 852-4355

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