

Opinion

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We all suffer irreparably without Quebec

Canadians are a passive people.

In what other land could a faction of society attempt to break away without causing a full-blown civil war, or at the least, without little more than rhetoric in opposition.

It can be said that it is democracy in action when a group of separatists can attempt the break-up of the country.

But this is not true. If it were a true democracy, the rest of the country would be given a say.

We are not being given a voice in the Quebec debate. It is being decided by the largely uninformed mass population of a small segment of our society and this



Viewpoint

Andrew Mair

is wrong. What do you think would happen if a group of Spanish-speaking Texas got into power and opted to leave the union of the United States? I can tell you that their efforts would be shut down in short order, most likely by force.

That is because in most other parts of the world, Bosnia and a few other places excepted, the majority of the population and the

governing bodies know that it is the unit as a whole that makes a nation strong. Can you imagine the revolt if Yorkshire attempted to separate from Great Britain? You'd have another Northern Ireland on your hands.

There is a simple message that many Quebecers are missing. At the risk of drawing parallels with Mr. Bouchard's recent malady, when your leg aches, you don't necessarily cut it off. Certainly, the ache will be gone, but the leg will not survive. The body may live on, but it will be crippled. If the leg is diseased, you may certainly have to cut it off, but the only disease currently affecting Quebec is a

healthy dose of ignorance and malpractice on the part of its leaders.

As the Yes side takes the lead in the campaign, (and unless the situation changes, it may just win), it is time for the nation's leaders to apply some strong medicine.

The No side should expend every effort and means within its power to demonstrate to the great unwashed who would consider a separate Quebec better off, that, in fact, it would be dead in the water and we would all suffer irreparably.

Now is not the time for passivity.

No nudes is good nudes

Outbreaks of unbridled nudity have been running — make that streaking — around the globe of late, and I'm not the only one who's concerned about it. The Chinese government was so worried about the possibility of streakers at the recent UN World Conference On Women that authorities issued an official pamphlet for Beijing cab drivers on how to handle nude passengers.

"Stop your cab and put on the handbrake," it reads. "Then jump out and shout for a policeman."

A high school valedictorian in Liberty, New York made certain that nobody fell asleep during her address. After she got to the podium, and before she began her speech, Eva Noel Bevilacqua, casually slipped her graduation gown off her shoulders and down on the stage, leaving Ms. Bevilacqua dressed in mortar board, black leather boots and nothing in between.

But it is in Britain that folks have been doffing their duds with an enthusiasm seldom seen in that dank and inhibited land. Birdwatchers in Coleford, England have been reporting a rare species indeed. A jogger wearing only running shoes has been seen jogging (and jiggling) along the hedgerows five times. Police believe that he is an eccentric trying to keep cool.

Meanwhile in Manchester, an even rarer breed of streaker has prompted a call for Parliament to intervene. These streakers appear exclusively during cricket games. During an England/West Indies match, streakers invaded the field seven times.

But my favorite British UFO (stands for Unidentified Flopping Object) appeared on a British TV news show last spring. Apparently on this show, they have their weather guy



Basic Black

Arthur Black

stand on a floating map of Great Britain about 15 yards wide, which is moored at the Liverpool Docks.

Last May, the regular weatherman was a tad nonplused to see a naked man leaping on to his map, right in the middle of a live broadcast. The naked stranger cartwheeled from England to Wales, executing a pas de deux just south of Gretna Green.

But it was his attempted grand jete from Scotland to Northern Ireland that did the interloper in. He lost his footing and stumbled into the ocean — but not before he'd made the weather forecast one that millions of viewers would remember forever.

Not all British nudists get off that lightly. In Canberra, Australia, Liz and Phil were physically attacked by hostile crowds just because they happened to be hanging out in the buff.

Actually, it was a sculpture entitled Down By The Lake With Liz and Phil — artist Greg Taylor's creation that showed the royal couple lounging naked on a park bench.

Apparently the sculpture enraged some Australian monarchists — so much so, that they trashed it three nights running.

Park officials finally decided to remove what was left of the sculpture to defuse the controversy.

Well, you know what those Aussie monarchists say: no nudes is good nudes.

