THE STEREOTYPING OF FRANCO-AMERICANS

Rudic humus in stereotyping is probably one of the greatest resources of this nation. To appreciate this concept it is necessary to analyse the meaning of stereotyping and the group involved: the Franco-Americans. Stereotyping, in our opinion, is assigning a group's perceived characteristics to a person due to a factor he or she has in common with that group. Franco-Americans are people of French descent who are American citizens. There appears to be a correlation between stereotyping and discrimination. Most research material available deals with discrimination, but can be linked to stereotyping.

We observed four major categories in which Franco-American citizens are stereotyped. They are as follows: the "dumb Frenchman", the "lazy Frenchman", the "emotional Frenchman", and the "stubborn Frenchman" (unwilling to change).

The formation of these categories of stereotypes lies mainly in the distortion or misinterpretation of facts or observations. For example, the dumb Frenchman myth could be supported by statistics which show that Franco-American students score lower on I.Q. tests than other children. This may be true, but one must take into consideration certain factors in the interpretation of such scores. The major factor to consider is that the I.Q. tests are geared to students whose primary language is English. No special consideration is given to students whose primary language is any other than English. The same lack of consideration is exemplified in instruction as well as testing. "If that child cannot understand the medium in which the material is taught, he is effectively excluded from the educational process and is a victim of fundamental discrimination." As one study put it, "the source of disadvantage for some minority groups derives in part from the fact that teaching and testing in schools are usually entirely in English, which for them is a second language." Our Franco-American student who was interviewed stated that she was annoyed by teachers who said they (Franco-Americans) were slower than other students and their writing poorer. She personally saw no difference between the quality of her work and that of non-Franco-American students.

The Anglo concept of the "lazy Frenchman" can be explained by a basic difference in achievement orientation. Americans are oriented to progress, advanced achievement, science, and technology. Franco-Americans, on the other hand, are geared to a (cont. on pg. 7)

Mark Violette, profile of Irane Maillo, Denis Rodax, Lizie Quellette, and Moderator, Paul Paré – in studio of WGBH during a recent taping of the French-language program: Fenêtre Ouverte. Subject: Youth!
This is perhaps a good time to speak about the effect of Title I training sessions at Bangor Mental Health Institute.

The most remarkable event is the growing use of French on the ward — with staff and patients. There is more ability and singing on the Bilingual Ward. That fact makes me the happiest of all.

After being exposed to various methods of therapy, from Psychodrama to Gestalt to Psychoanalysis to Relaxation, it is hard to say that the staff has a bunch of new ideas to work from. In fact, I have noticed that staff members do less and less; that the exchanges on the ward are warmer and more fun...and most of all, that some patients are getting better. I guess that is the most important of all. Patients are getting care that is of higher and higher quality, more and more in French. I think I notice more self-confidence in the staff too — maybe some of the training has something to do with that.

I must add that I do not think that Title I worked big miracles; perhaps not even small ones. But, given that the staff was already a pretty dedicated group of people, I think the sessions have offered options, new ways of seeing the problems, and finally a sense of confidence...and perhaps at the end, a sense of wonderment at ourselves: what strange and wonderful beasts we all are, how curious and interesting.

The workshops on Franco Americans, led by Norm Dubé (cher coeur), Don Dugas, Irene Simone, gave us all a new sense of how much there is to learn about ourselves as a cultural entity, and how much our culture has influenced our view of the world...and perhaps how little control we have had over that...New knowledge gives us a chance to "get on top of it" somewhat. Since our history is not taught in the schools, our language not spoken by educators, it is always a revelation to learn about these areas.

It was especially interesting to receive Normand Clavet, who served as a Psychiatrist Clente in Edmundston — thus forming a population which is extremely close to the one served by Bangor Mental Health Institute. Just knowing what his shop does, gives new ideas and new energy to the speculations we have had about our own side of the river.

Something like this project: trying to provide services for a population which has never had special services before is no easy task: First of all there are no resources available, no precedent (except if we wish to translate) no big books that we could read for all the final answers, and no beaten paths of "tried and true methods". Everyone involved was taking risks — some big, some small — Will it pay off? I don't really think we know yet. I guess the best time will be the patients who leave the Institute. Will their lives have been touched and changed for and towards health?

Another area of risk is the factor of risk taking coupled with cultural consciousness raising. It has always been a tough process — that of learning something about oneself: whether as a woman or as a member of a linguistic group. People in that process are particularly vulnerable and hurtful and yet, defensive. I think it is safe to say that through the year we all got a touch of that, and it is a tribute to the work we all did that most of us came out still on speaking terms. It has been my experience that we all have old anxieties about being members of a group that was put down for its language...sometimes that anger is directed inward, sometimes outward...but the lid is lifted and we are encouraged to talk about it: Watch out! Funny things happen.

Well, enough. I think the Project delivered on its promises, and that the Hospital will continue to support services for Franco Americans. For persons interested in this you should contact the Hospital for further information on or to offer your skills to the effort being made.

(cont. on pg. 3)

RMH staff who will receive certificates of completion for the Workshops offered by the Title I Project during the months of August 1975 through May 1976 are: Carol B. McTinley, David Hamlin, Darryl Colford, Roberta Beane, Roberta Robinson, Lucien Maurice Aubut, Georges Guerrette, Honorine Launier, Fernande Ladd, Michael Eldred, R. Scott Perry, and Clarisse Babcock.

To each of these devoted staff members, felicitations at bonne chance l'an prochain. Si nous pouvons vous être de service, give us a call!

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The FAROG Forum is a monthly journal of the Franco-American community in Maine and New England. Printed by EASTERN MAINE PRINTERS, Brewer, Maine.
As the title I funds and programs come to an end, I am - of course - buried under Final Report Forms, Accounting Procedures... Also, I am buried with staircase wit - the wit I have after I've left, regrets, suggestions, new ideas. This is perhaps a good place to share some of these.

This is also the time for some acknowledgements. First, a belated acknowledgement to the writers of the proposal: Dr. Jill Bottrell of Sanger Mental Health Institute - over the course of the project, I have had opportunity to see her honesty, integrity, and solid commitments develop. Another writer was Cécile Collin, now with the Franco American Gerontology Project - all I can say is that I am very sorry you left, it would have been fun to work on this together. Another absent writer was Kristine Dahlgren, who was at that time Assistant Dean for Student Affairs here at the University of Michae; thanks for involving the Department of Student Affairs in an enterprise that was so new, so different and so iffy.

Lastly, the fourth writer was Yvon A. Labe, who has also functioned as the Director of the Project. Thanks for your continuing support, and for the many times that you attended functions at Sanger Mental Health Institute. Workshops without you were less fun.

At the Hospital, during the early days of the project, support came from many directions: from Michael Paradis, from Virginia Newbert, from Rosemary Perrin, from all the members of the Bilingual Ward staff: Mike Blier, Carol Mccain, Georges Gourette, Fern Ladd, Darryl Colford, Chris Dunn, Bobbie Minetto, Bobbie Baume, Larry Cole, Michael Charette, Maurice Aubut, a little later, Scott Perry, Sheila Lorence, Martha Fleming, David Remlin, Clarisse Babcock, Cora Baxon, and on and on. Really, a more dedicated, devoted staff does not exist. Period.

Acknowledgements go out to Mr. Saml, Superintendent of the Hospital who decided to go with a Bilingual Ward, and try it out. Without his initial O.K., nothing would have happened.

My thanks to the staff of Student Affairs, from Dr. Kaplan (who actually reads my reports) to Dwight Rideout who in curious, to Judy Cooper who pinch hits when work gets too much, to Ruth Barry who is a genius at accounting and has kept the books straight.

Special thanks to Dick Jacobs who was interested enough to visit; and to Linda Monko of Women's Services who not only listened but acted.

Thanks to Jim Gallagher and Norm Lapointe, the two nicest, smartest, most caring evaluators one could have.

Most of all, though, thank you to Bobbie Verrick, our Title I Officer who has been patient, interested, willing to turn the proposal around when it seemed to fit the needs better, and who has been most supportive of all. Thank you, Beauccoup.

A greeting also to the students at FAMOC. You guys and girls kept me wrapped on days when I threatened to come undone, you were happy to come in to the Hospital with your puppets, your songs, your skills. Thanks to Denise, the two Lisas, Debbie, Ann, Mark, Dan, Mike, Bobbie, and our premier p'tit maître Greg Chabot.

I also have been touched by the mail I've received from the readers of the FORUM: your input has been warm and encouraging. Merci bien des fois. Au moins, je n'étais pas une voix dans le désert.

Claire

Ms. Roberta Baume, Assistant Team Leader on the Bilingual Ward. Although Bobbie is not Franco American, she is an ardent defender of the concept of bilingual therapy.

Beau-Frog

TOO LONG IN HIS OWN SHADOW ?!!
Chers lecteurs,

Une autre année qui se termine ici chez FAROG, et comme toujours, les nouveaux deviennent anciens et ils partent. Ça fait mal au cœur. J'ai encore une larme dans l'œil, cette année une larme d'hiver et l'autre larme qui se perd dans les yeux. J'oublie que c'est ça à tous les âges… J'oublie qu'ils ne sont ici que pour un court séjour et qu'avec le printemps arrive la désintégration de FAROG. Je ne suis pas encore prêt mais je me sens un peu papa. La présence de chacun d'eux a été pour moi une aventure. On a partagé des moments de joie et de tristesse, de rires et de pleurs, des sueurs et des sueurs, mais surtout des moments de croissance. Je ne vais pas vous dire que c'est dans les fragments mais que c'est dans le résultat. Il faut toujours s'arrêter.

Avant de risquer une chute dans la philosophie, je voudrais vous souhaiter un avenir brillant à ceux qui ont su se faire apprécier par FAROG. On a eu du fun à en mourir. Tiens, là, je m'aperçois vraiment que c'est le fun. Ça m'ennuie, c'est "amusant".

Claire, qui a injecté une dose d'élan vital au sein de l'Institut de Bangor Mental Health, est à la recherche d'autres jardins qui pourraient bénéficier de sa présence. A mon avis, c'est un cas d'échappées de choix, c'est à dire un grand nombre de jardins, mais très peu de jardiniers.

Ann, qui est certainement une des aspects souriants de FAROG, va contribuer ses talents au Corps de Fain. Bon voyage, Ann.

Surprise! Les marionnettes du Projet FACTS, Lisa, Debbie, Mary, Marie et Chuck viennent d'entrer. Ils sont partis pour aller boire un verre avec Greg. Ils sont partis pour aller voir un film, ils sont partis pour aller faire du vélo. Et quand vous êtes sur la pente descendant pour aller défendre d'autres portes.

Chaque année, l'existence de FAROG est mise en question par cette émeute printanière. Et chaque année, la question devient réponse. FAROG est encore là, prêt. Va-t-il partir pour être présent?

UN CÔTE PLUS PRATIQUE:


Pendant que je suis là, je tiens à remercier et à féliciter le staff du FAROG FORUM - Dan, Marc, Lisa, Denise, Ann - pour un merveilleux travail. Ils sont tous amateurs, mais amateurs avec grande coeur.

D'autre part, comme vous le savez bien, c'est l'année du bicentenaire des États-Unis d'Amérique. J'ai pensé que nous pourrions créer de nouveaux collants pour para-traduction (bumper stickers). Je voudrais vous offrir quelques suggestions parmi lesquelles vous pouvez choisir celle qui vous semble bonne:

(Mettez une cocotte à la gauche des phrases qui vous plaisent)

"...Qu'avez donc un bi sans tonnerre"
"...Lafayette, on est encore ici"
"...Oui, perd sa langue ne parle plus"
"...On l'a voulu, on l'a eu"
"...Lache pas la patate"
"...J'ai la France-mania"
"...On est pas fort, mais on est pas mort"
"...Le bi sans tonnerre, ça veut-y la peine"
"...Miarres et cornes, y l'auront pas"
"...Après 300 ans, on est encore tétue"
"...Que fait-on après un bi sans tonnerre"
"...Notre français est une langue étrangère OUI"
"...Donnez-nous notre petit pain sans tonnerre"
"...FAROG - Ça t'étonne?"

(cont. on pg. 8)
STATISTICS ON THE MAJOR FRANCO-AMERICAN POPULATION

GENESEE IN NEW ENGLAND

MAINE

AUBURN 28.7%
AUGUSTA 28.2%
BANGOR 61.7%
BROOKS 15.1%
CARRABE
LEBANON 23.7%
LEWISTON 59.7%
PAINEY EALE 13.8%
SAUGUS 28.5%
SANDFORD 61.2%
SARATOGA 30.0%
WESTBROOK 17.2%

NEW HAMPSHIRE

NORTH 60.5%
CLAREMONT 17.2%
HUDSON 18.3%
LACONIA 21.3%
MANCHESTER 31.7%
ROCHESTER 27.4%
Rochester 21.2%

VERMONT

BARRE 15.4%
BURLINGTON 4.5%
EASTON 12.0%
ESSEX 10.4%

Ver. 9.5%

N. H. 15.3%

MASS.

6.5%

Mass.

5.3%

10.7%

TOTAL FRANCO-AMERICAN POPULATION: 1 MILLION

ME. 14.2%
Preventive Medicine

Arsenic Poisoning
Solution of pearlash water, or chalk and water. If arsenic in powder has been taken, give linseed tea, warm water, linseed, tickling the throat to produce vomiting.

Chancer
Take volk of an egg, with as much fine salt as it will hold. Stir it to a slurry and apply a plaster of it, spread upon silk towels a day. Or, bathe the chance 3 or 4 times a day with a solution of branzy and salt.

Dyspepsia
Bear honey, burnt and reduced to powder. Take a teaspoon three times a day, mixed with molasses. This is highly recommended. Or: fill a decanter half full of wild cherries, then fill it up with best old Jamaica spirits. Take half a wine glass twice a day. Use no sugar. This has cured many.

Heartburn Lozenges
6 ounces chalk
2 ounces prepared crab's eyes
1 ounce boiled ammoniac
Take into paste with dissolved gum arabic.

Trench
Make use of sulphur; it is an old but effective remedy. Or: take half pound of fresh butter and a teaspoonful of vinegar; simmer until it evaporates; add some nutmeg grated, a tablespoon of ground allspice; let it cool; it is the thickness of cream and add one teaspoon of sulphur. Anoint three days in succession and it will affect a cure.

Nose Bleeding
Soak feet in warm water; put lint up the nose, wet with hot drops and keep the wrappings wet with cold water. Or: pour cold water upon the back of the neck, and put a ball of rag up the nostril, dipped in equal parts of white of egg, sugar, and burnt alum.

Pulsation of the Heart
Take from 10 to 15 drops, three times a day, of the tincture of stramonium. Or: take the tincture of gum masticum; dose, a teaspoonful twice a day, in milk.

Rheumatism
To a handful of blue flag root, add a pint of good spirits; let it stand a week. Drop: a tablespoon 3 times a day and increase by degrees to 3 tablespoons a day. An Indian medicine. Or: take a poultice of hot potatoes.

Superfluous hair removal
2 parts powdered quicklime
1 part sublimate arsenic
1 part starch
Mix and apply.

RECETTES

Cretons (rillletes)
(This is one of several recipes)
2 livres de porc haché
cornets
coin de girofle
mél
Tout au goût. Parsez hopi pour pendant trois heures à 360°. Versez dans des bols et laissez figer dans un endroit frais.

Chaux Cherry Jelly
Part I
4 pts choe cherries
Cover with cold water and boil until cherries are soft and cooked. Mash and strain, leaving thick residue. Part II
3-1/2 cups juice
4-1/2 cups sugar
1 box pell
Cook over high heat; bring to a hard ball stirring on and off. Add to cherries; stir; bring to a full boil that cannot be lifted down for one minute. Remove from heat. Skin off and pour at once. Leave one inch at top and cover with 1/8" paraffin. Store in refrigerator without wax.

GENÉALOGIES

We will be going through the book "Your Ancient Canadian Family Tree" by Reginald Oivier of Sanford. These tell you exactly from what part of France your ancestors come. The archdiocesan historians have helped to prior to 1650.

What you will have to do is trace your immediate history back as far as you can; and search your archives. We would appreciate it if you have a specific name in mind to let us know so that others may also share.

Jean Poirier dit Lajeunesse, soldier for M. Chamblé, born 1647, son of Jean and of Jeanne Poirier, of Noilhères, Diocese of Quebec, married at Montreal on 26 March 1663 to Marie Langlois, born 1647, daughter of François and Marie Vaudville, of Dienne.

Roy
Nicolas Roy, son of Nicolas and of Madeleine Letu, of Arranville, in Gasco, married at Québec on 22 October 1663 to Catherine Barre, daughter of Jean and of Marie Epy, of La Rochele.

"Le Pied" means "the plowing". This is a photo of the St. Lawrence River in Provo and this spring isn't that appropriate???

PROV PHOTO

ROY
Jean Roy, born 1624, died on 1 November 1689, son of Henry and of Fortune Bedinister, of Sarrain, Diocese of Toours, married at Montreal on 12 January 1672 to Marie Dumay, widow of Nicolas Mavoue, daughter of André and of Marie Chevillé.

VALLEE
Jean Vallée, born 1642, son of Pierre and of Madeleine Dumaniel, of St.-Jean, Diocese of Rouen, in Normandy, married at Château-Richer on 4 February 1666 to Marie Martin dit Amelin, born 1650, daughter of Jacques and of Marie Lémaitre, of Notre-Dame de Cogne, Diocese of La Rochelle, in Aunis.
AU RÉDACTEUR:

Dear FARQO,

I am writing in reference to your article in the April issue of the FORUM regarding bilingual - bicultural job opportunities. I am a 1977 graduate of WSS with a degree in psychology and a teaching certificate in Secondary Social Studies. I speak French and English dialect fluently. My goal for an ideal job is one in which I could be assisting our francophone population. Please give me some information on such job opportunities in the Stateville, Augusta, Auburn-Lowell area or anywhere within this general vicinity.

I would also like to know if there is any special treatment is given to the French Americans at home in the United States that you may be aware of. By special treatment, I mean treatments by people who speak their language and understand their culture. As is done at the Rogers Mental Health Institute.

Thank you very much for any information you can give me. Sincerely, Nicole Morel Scrubner

Dear FARQO,

I have been following with keen interest your series of articles on Focus on women, and hope you will continue these accounts and explanations despite the many trips to the bathroom. Some of the club's members have suggested that you change the name of the column to "Women Focus," and I am writing you to suggest that this might be done. Furthermore, it is a fact that most of the visions presented in these Focus have been contributed by women. I hope your columns will continue to give voice to the contributions of the middle-aged as well as the elderly. The longevity and the intellectual contributions of the middle-aged are not to be underestimated. Moreover, your Focus on women's columns give vent to the feelings of the most articulate and the most outspoken of our community. Would it be possible to permit contributions to these columns to be signed anonymously or pseudonymously if need be, to allow a wider range of views and feelings on this topic? I personally would like to hear from older women because I believe they are one of the main voices on the subject of women in these potential editors and others were given the option of anonymity perhaps.

PARIS: Vous avez le droit de mettre en question la série d'articles sur les femmes. En laissant les contributions des femmes s'exprimer de manière anonyme ou sous pseudonyme, vous permettez aux femmes âgées de se faire entendre. En effet, les femmes âgées ont une voix importante dans le débat sur les femmes.

TIME LINE (Lewiston)

1902 - St. Louis Parish formed in Auburn
1906-1915 - Corporation Sole Controversy
1907 - St. Mary's Parish formed
1914 - First Franco-American parish in Lewiston
1916 - Parish House formed
1919 - First Franco-American Men's Club formed
1920 - First Franco-American Women's Club formed
1923 - Organization of the League des Sociétés du Langage Français
1924 - First snowshoe club in the U.S. - La Montagne
1928-1929 - First statewide organization of Franco-American women's groups in Lewiston
1941 - Opening of St. Dominic's High School
1941 - Foundation of Union Locale des Rénégats
1949 - St. Dominic's Arena built in Lewiston
1950 - Creation of Fédération Féminine Franco-Amercaine, in Lewiston
1950 - Creation of First New England-wide organization for Franco women
1958 - Construction of Central Maine Youth Center
1966 - Newspaper ceases publication (longest lasting French newspaper in the U.S.)
1971 - Foundation of Centre d'Héritage Franco-Américain, first Franco historical group in Maine
1975 - Creation of L'Unite Franco-Américaine

STEREOTYPES

in the next section of this paper.

In examining the stereotyping of a group of people, one must examine the effects that the stereotypes have on these people. Ethnic humor dealing with stereotypes is often juxtaposed with the stereotype often is prominent in our nation. How many times have you said, "How does a Frenchman...?" and "Did you hear the one...?"

A stereotype is a distortion of the truth. For example, "Frenchmen..." has been used. An article on Polish jokes gives an insight into the effects of ethnic humor. Though the following quote deals with Eastern European Christian immigrants, it can easily be applied to Franco-Americans.

Americans do not realize the systematic structure of the stereotype Eastern European community. Nor do they suspect the double bind - the expectation of assimilation and the internalized self-concept that the constant pressure of ugly jokes and stereotypes imposes. The sting of the joke is that they make our deepest self-doubts public. They keep us in our place. They can't be a card game with many who see no escape. Land of opportunity? Cannot some major center of learning conduct a study of how much damage is done to the psyche of people constantly stereotyped in public?

(cont. on p. 8)
Dumont Warden of the Year.

This year's recipient of the "Warden of the Year Award" will be Philip Dumond of Escourt Station...

Philip has been a district warden since June of 1937, and except for a short duration, has been assigned to the most northern warden district in the State. He is a very quiet, dedicated, and hard-working warden, always trying to devise new means of apprehending fish and game violators in a very difficult area. He takes a great interest in working with new wardens, and truly enjoys the area he patrols. Being bilingual is certainly quite an asset, as the people that live in his area are of French-Canadian descent.

There is no doubt that Philip Dumond has become a legend in the north country, and is well known to all the hunters and fishermen that travel in the "Big Twenty".

(This release from the Dept. of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife)

La joie de vivre au Québec

Our hard working literary reporter, Mark Violette, on an especially difficult assignment.

Stereotyping

It seems that one of the most damaging effects of stereotyping is the internalization of negative concepts by those being stereotyped. In the case of the Franco-American, he comes to believe that he is inferior, stupid, and temperamental. He may say to himself "I do react from emotions, not intelligence. Therefore I must be temperamental and dumb. Since I don't try to progress in my job, and since I only try to do what I'm supposed to do, I must be lazy."

That being the case, another severely damaging effect is the frustration that arises out of being torn between two cultures. The Anglos perceive the Francos as being unwilling to change, yet if the Francos speak English, they are made fun of because of their accent. As one girl interviewed put it, "They are not listening to my meaning, just my accent." The Francos (especially the younger ones) are placed in a compromising position. They are ridiculed by the Anglos for being too French and by the French for being too Anglo. They are forced to make a choice between the American value system and that of their French heritage. More recently, the trend has been to try to get the Francos to pick "the best of both worlds", the best aspect of each culture and incorporate it into a value system of their own. The feelings experienced by

FRAG (con't)

"Après 200 ans, le bonheur est resté petit"

"Maudit qu'y est bon notre petit pain"

"L'aventur Franco, ça dépends do mot...et toi"

"Franco du bourseau au toqueau"

"Misères et cordes, y en a en russe"

Si vous avez des suggestions ou des créations que vous voudriez ajouter a celles que nous avons déjà cochées, voulez-vous les écrire et m'envoyer le tout à FRAG aussitôt possible.

En terminant, un grand merci à tout ceux qui ont bien voulu nous lire, en plus nous comprendre et encore plus réagir.

Bon été et à la prochaine,

Lyan

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FRAG catches in the conflict resulting from stereotyping is well expressed in the following passage:

Merchi, monsieur, but please don't bother. I know you really want to help me to be something, but what about my identity? And besides I will forget how to speak to my father. But I know a skill that you have got missing. And it is simply this: learn how to listen. If you can do that, then we have both got something. Let's get off that writing pot, and all that artificial rot... I don't know who's on your side, but it's time we ended Higglede.