

# LE F.A.R.O.G. FORUM

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## THE STEREOTYPING OF FRANCO-AMERICANS

Ethnic humor 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 do 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 one 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." One 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. Francos, on the other hand, are geared to a

(cont. on pg.7)



Nous présentons, dans ce numéro, un nouveau crapaud: BEAU FROG. Il est la création de Monsieur Pierre Archambeault, artiste à l'Université du Maine, à la Faculté de Pédagogie, Département Audio-Visuel.

Watch for him next year!

FORUM photo

Fenêtre Ouverte is on Channels 10 and 12 - on Tuesdays, at 8:30 p.m. Some topics have been: Hockey, History, Youth, Lumbering... More to come!!!



Mark Violette, profile of Irene Maillot, Denis Ledoux, Lise Ouellette, and Moderator, Paul Paré - in studios of WCBB during a recent taping of the French-language program: Fenêtre Ouverte. Subject: Youth!

# FRONTIÈRES SANS DOUANES

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 gaiety and singing on the Bilingual Ward. That fact makes me the happiest of all.

After being exposed to various methods of therapy, from Psychodram to Gestalt to Psychosynthesis to Relaxation, it is fair to say that the staff has a bunch of new ideas to work from. In fact, I have noticed that staff members do hug and hold the patients more, 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 Simano, 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 serves as Director of a Psychiatric Clinic in Edmundston - thus serving 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 fresh 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 never had special services before is no easy task: First of all there are no resources available, no precedents (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 indices 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 hurttable, and yes, 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 angers about being members of a group that was put down for its language...sometimes that anger is directed inward, sometimes outward...When 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 - or to offer your skills to the effort being made.

(cont. on pg. 3)

BMHI 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. McInnis, David Hamlin, Darryl Colford, Roberta Beane, Roberta Robinson, Lucien Maurice Aubut, Georges Guérette, Honorine Lausier, Fernande Ladd, Micheal Blier, R. Scott Perry, and Clarisse Babcock.

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

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FORUM photo

Georges Guérette, Marthe Fleming, Bobbie Minette and David Hamlin during the April 29th Workshop led by Normand Clavet of Edmundston.



# FRONTIÈRES SANS DOUANES cont...

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. Jil Bottrell of Bangor 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 Dahlberg, who was at that time Assistant Dean for Student Affairs here at the University of Maine: 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. Labbé, 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 Bangor 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 McInnis, Georges Guérette, Fern Ladd, Darryl Colford, Chris Dunn, Bobbie Minette, Bobbie Beane, Larry Cole, Michael Charette, Maurice Aubut, a little later, Scott Perry, Sheila Lorenz, Martha Fleming, David Hamlin, Clarisse Babcock, Cora Damon, and on and on. Really, a more dedicated, devoted staff does not exist. Period.

Acknowledgements go out to Mr. Saxl, 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 is 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 Worrick, 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. Beaucoup.

A greeting also to the students at FAROG. 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 notre premier p'tit gars Greg Chabot.

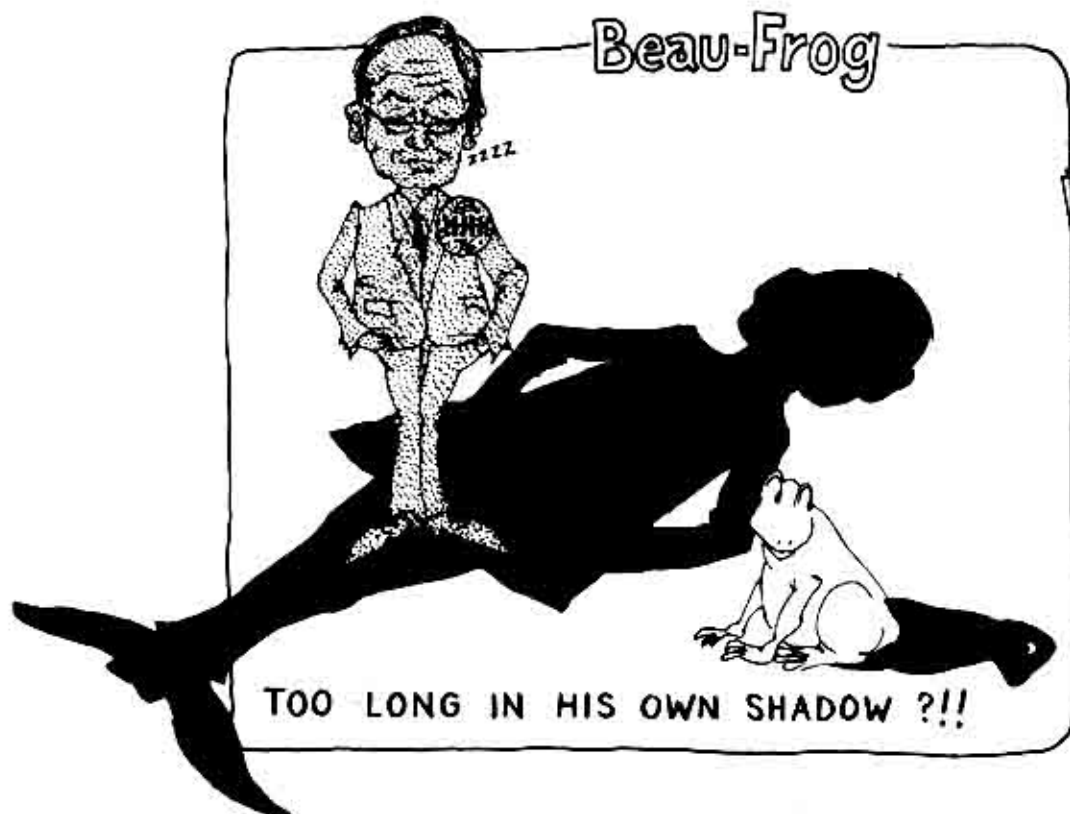
I also have been touched by the mail I've received from the readers of the FORUM: your input has been warming and encouraging. Merci ben des fois. Au moins, je n'étais pas une voix dans le désert.

*Chérie*



FORUM photo

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



# UN COUP D'OEIL SUR FAROG

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 coeur. J'ai encore un pied dans l'automne la tête en pleine hiver et l'autre pied qui résiste les adieux. J'oublie que c'est comme ça à tous les ans... 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 père 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, des échecs et des succès, des éveils et des sommeils, mais surtout des moments de croissance. Je me vois là dedans aussi. On s'est encore donné la permission de grandir cette année. J'apprends que le but n'est pas d'être mûr, mais plutôt de murir. Il faut toujours murir.

Avant de risquer une chute dans la philosophie, je voudrais souhaiter un avenir mûrissant à ceux qui ont su se faire apprivoiser par FAROG. On a eu du fun à en mûrir. Tiens, là, je m'aperçois vraiment que c'est le fin de l'année. C'est "amûrissant".

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

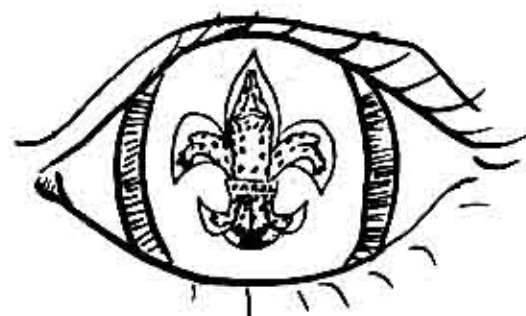
Ann, qui est certainement un des aspects souriants de FAROG va contribuer ses talents au Corps de Paix. Bon voyage, Ann.

Surprise! Les marionettistes du Projet FACTS, Lisa, Debbie, Mary, Pierre et Chuck viennent d'entrer. Ils sont partis pour aller boire un verre avec Greg. Eux aussi ont terminé leur travail ce soir. Et ensuite c'est la dispersion pour aller défoncer d'autres portes.

Chaque année, l'existence de FAROG est mise en question par cette exode printannière. Et chaque automne la question devient réponse. FAROG est encore là, rajeuni. Faut-il partir pour être présent?

UN COTE PLUS PRATIQUE:

La présence de FAROG et de notre journal le FORUM, dépend surtout de vous et de tout



Neveda, du Minnesota, du Nouveau Brunswick, de Washington, de la Nouvelle Angleterre, et surtout du Maine. Merci à tous. J'espère que votre intérêt au FAROG FORUM vous portera à vous réabonner au mois de septembre. Les frais de publication pour un numéro du FORUM montent à quatre cent dollars. Si vous multipliez par huit numéros pour l'année, ça monte à trois mille deux cent dollars. Des cinq dollars, ça m'en prend.

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 grands coeurs.

D'autre part, comme vous le savez bien, c'est l'année du bicentenaire des Etats-Unies d'Amérique. J'ai pensé que nous pourrions créer de nouveaux collants pour pare-choc (bumper stickers). Je voudrais vous offrir quelques suggestions parmi lesquelles vous pouvez choisir celles qui vous semblent bonnes:

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

- ... "Qu'ossa donne un bi sans tonnerre"
- ... "Lafayette, on est encore ici"
- ... "Qui perd sa langue ne parle plus"
- ... "On l'a voulu, on l'a eu"
- ... "Lache pas la patate"
- ... "J'ai la Franco-manie"
- ... "On est pas fort, mais on est pas mort"
- ... "Le bi sans tonnerre, ça vaut-y la peine"
- ... "Misères et cordes, y m'auront pas"
- ... "Après 300 ans, on est encore icitte"
- ... "Que fait-on après un bi sans tonnerre"
- ... "Notre français est une langue étrangère OUI  
NON"
- ... "Donnez-nous notre petit pain sans tonnerre"
- ... "FAROG - Ca t'étonne?"

(cont. on pg. 8)

FORUM photo



This is what our Office looks like right now... A door leading out, and filled with students... In the fall, the process is reversed, with the sound of returning - and of starting up the Office again.

A tout ceux qui nous ont observé avec une certaine distance ou une distance certaine, je vous souhaite un petit FAROG dans votre coeur. Ça fait mûrir.

Pour vous montrer que le jardin de FAROG a été cultivé avec acharnement il faut bien vous faire voir un peu la récolte. Peggy et Dan, deux FAROG, ont choisi de mûrir ensemble. La greffe aura lieu à la fin du mois de mai. Marc, qu'on pourrait appeler le Revenant, sera à la poursuite de sols riches et fertiles.

ceux qui ont prêté leur appui. En ce qui concerne la finance, je voudrais d'abord remercier le Community Action Board, et le Student Senate à l'UMO pour leur appui financier généreux.

Un grand merci à vous qui êtes déjà abonné à notre journal. Comme vous le savez, le FORUM n'est pas subventionné par l'Université. Alors vos abonnements nous permettent de continuer notre travail.

Ca vous intéresserait peut-être de savoir que nos abonnés viennent d'un peu partout: du Québec, de l'Alberta, de la Californie, de la Nouvelle Orléans, de la France, du

# STATISTICS ON THE MAJOR FRANCO-AMERICAN POPULATION

## CENTERS IN NEW ENGLAND.

### MAINE

AUBURN	28.7%
AUGUSTA	29.3%
BIDDEFORD	61.4%
BRUNSWICK	19.8%
CARIBOU	23.7%
LEWISTON	59.9%
PRESQUE ISLE	13.8%
SACO	28.5%
SANFORD	41.4%
WATERVILLE	30.0%
WESTBROOK	17.2%

### NEW HAMPSHIRE

BERLIN	60.5%
CLAREMONT	17.3%
HUDSON	18.3%
LACONIA	21.3%
MANCHESTER	31.7%
NASHUA	27.4%
ROCHESTER	21.2%

### VERMONT

BARRE	15.8%
BENNINGTON	4.5%
BURLINGTON	12.0%
ESSEX	10.4%

**Ver.**  
9.5%

**N.H.**  
15.3%

**Mass.**  
6.5%

**CONN.**  
5.3%

**R.I.**  
10.7%

**ME.**  
14.2%

### MASSACHUSETTS

BELLINGHAM	25.3%
CHICOPEE	20.4%
DRACUT	29.0%
FALL RIVER	17.6%
FITCHBURG	23.5%
GARDNER	30.5%
LAWRENCE	17.5%
LEONMINSTER	22.1%
LOVELL	20.4%
SALEM	18.3%
SOUTHBRIDGE	37.5%

### CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD	6.7%
KILLINGLY	23.7%
NORWICH	9.8%
PLAINFIELD	25.9%
PLAINVILLE	11.8%
SOUTHINGTON	8.9%
WILLIAMANTIC	18.4%

### RHODE ISLAND

BURRILLVILLE	22.9%
CENTRAL FALLS	36.3%
PATTUCKET	17.4%
WEST WARICK	24.4%
WOONSOCKET	56.8%

**TOTAL FRANCO-AMERICAN POPULATION: 1 MILLION 5**





## Preventive Medicine



## RECETTES



## Généalogies

### 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 yolk of an egg, with as much fine salt as it will hold. Stir it to a salve and apply a plaster of it, spread upon silk twice a day. Or: bathe the chancer 3 or 4 times a day with a solution of brandy and salt.

### Dyspepsia

Beef bones, 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

4 ounces chalk  
2 ounces prepared crab's eyes  
1 ounce bole ammoniac  
Make into a paste with dissolved gum arabic.

### Itch

Make use of sulphur, it is an old but effective remedy.  
Or: take half pound of fresh butter and a teacupful of vinegar; simmer until it evaporates; add one nutmeg grated, a tablespoon of ground allspice; let it cool to 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 temples 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.

### Palpitation of the Heart

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

### Rheumatism

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

### Superfluous hair removal

2 parts powdered quicklime  
1 part sulphuret arsenic  
1 part starch  
Mix and apply.

### Cretons (rillettes)

(This is one of several recipes)

2 livres de porc hâché  
oignons  
cannelle  
clou de girofle  
sel

Tout au goût. Faire bouillir pendant trois heures à 340°, Versez dans des bols et laissez figer dans un endroit frais.

### Choke Cherry Jelly

Part I

4 qts choke cherries  
Cover with cold water and boil until cherries are pale and cooked. Mash and strain leaving thick residue.

Part II

3-1/2 cups juice  
4-1/2 cups sugar  
1 box pectin

Cook over high heat; bring to a hard boil stirring on and off. Add to cherries; stir; bring to a full boil that cannot be brought down for one minute. Remove from heat. Skim off foam and pour at once. Leave one inch at top and cover with 1/8" paraffin. Store in refrigerator without wax.

We will be going through the book "Your Ancient Canadian Family Ties" by Reginald Olivier of Sanford. These tell you exactly from what part of France your ancestors come, the Archdioceses and dioceses they belonged to prior to 1650.

What you will have to do is trace your immediate history back as far as you can, and search from there. 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. Chambly, born 1647, son of Jean and of Jeanne Poirier, of Molières, Diocese of Gueray, married at Montreal on 18 March 1668 to Marie Langlois, born 1647, daughter of François and of Marie Veufville, of Dieppe.

### ROY

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

FORUM photo



"Le Dégel" means "the thawing". This is a photo of the Stillwater River in Arono early this spring. Isn't that appropriate???



### ROY

Jean Roy, born 1634, died on 1 November 1689, son of Henry and of Perinne Bedassier, of Serraine, Diocese of Tours, married at Montréal on 12 January 1672 to Marie Dumay, widow of Nicolas Nevaux, daughter of André and of Marie Chedville.

### VALLEE

Jean Vallée, born 1642, son of Pierre and of Madeleine Dumesnil, of St.-Jean, Diocese of Rouen, in Normandy, married at Chateau-Richer on 4 February 1666 to Marie Martin dit Amelin, born 1650, daughter of Jacques and of Marie Lemaitre, of Notre-Dame of Cogne, Diocese of La Rochelle, in Aunis.



## AU RÉDACTEUR:

Dear FAROG,

I am writing in reference to your article in the April issue of the FORUM regarding bilingual - bi-cultural job opportunities. I am a 1975 graduate of UMO with a degree in psychology and a teaching certificate in Secondary Social Studies. I speak French and our franco dialect fluently. My goal for an ideal job is one in which I could be assisting our franco american population. Please give me some information on such job opportunities in the Waterville, Augusta, Auburn-Lewiston areas or anywhere within this general vicinity.

I would also like to know if any special treatment is given to the Franco Americans at Augusta Mental Health Institute that you may be aware of. By special treatment, I mean treated by people who speak their language and understand their culture - as is done at the Bangor Mental Health Institute.

Thank you very much for any information you may give me.

Sincerely,  
Nicole Morin Scribner

Dear FARO FORUM,

I have been following with keen interest your series of arti-

cles on Focus on Women, Men, and hope you will continue these accounts and explorations despite the "many trips to the bathroom"; some of the writers' perceptions have struck a chord of response in me as a woman, as a Franco American. I would however like to comment on possibilities for the expansion and representation of views on the topic of Women, Men.

First, I would sincerely hope that the Focus on Women is not diverted to a Focus on Mensoleu. Perhaps an expansion of this section to both a Focus on Women, Focus on Men columns might solve this problem. Furthermore, it has struck me that most of the views presented in these Foci have concentrated on the explorations and perceptions of younger Franco-Americans. I hope their contributions will have paved the way for the future contributions of the middle-aged the elderly, the celibate, the lesbian and the homosexual men in the Franco-American community and elsewhere. Moreover, your Focus on Women, Men columns give vent to the feelings of only the most articulate and the most "out front" members of our community. Would it not be possible to permit contributions to these columns to be signed anonymously or with pseudonym 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 will be one someday soon) about their views on the subject of women, men. If these potential writers and others were given the option of anonymity perhaps

a series of contributions would be forthcoming. In any case, merci for the past moments of meditation which these Foci on Women, Men have given me.

Irene Simano

Dear F.A.R.O.G.

First of all, I want to thank you for the informations you sent my students for their projects. They were impressed by the quantity, and as they're rather shy at reading in English, they appreciated bilingual material!

As students and teacher alike seem to be in a habit of sponging off FAROG. I thought I should send you something in return. A couple of years ago, I got a whole stack of documents from you for my thesis. Now that it is printed, you get one. I would like to know what you think of it. (endless feed back system!)

Now I am up to my ears in a doctoral thesis; the subject is the French speaking community which lives on the Canadian side of the St. John River. Do you have any information I could use in your files? I would be interested in getting FAROG Forum as well. My-in-laws will send you the money for the subscription (I married an American from Maine, but this one is not a Franco.) Well, I suppose you have better things to do than reading my rambling prose, so:

Yours sincerely,  
B. Craio

## 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 mayor of Lewiston, Charles Lemaire  
1923- Foundation of Holy Family Parish, Holy Cross Parish and Sacred Heart  
1923- Organization of La Ligue des Sociétés de Langue Française  
1924- First snowshoe club in the U.S. -- Le Montagnard  
1925- First women's snowshoe group in the U.S., - La Gaieté  
1928-Foyer Marcotte (Marcotte Nursing Home) opens  
1936- First statewide organization of Francos started in Lewiston  
1941- Opening of St. Dominic's High School  
1941- Foundation of Union Locale des Raquetteurs  
1949- St. Dominic's Arena built  
1951- Creation of Fédération Féminine Franco-Américaine, in Lewiston; first New England-wide organization for Franco women  
1958- Construction of Central Maine Youth Center  
1966- Messenger 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'Unité Franco-Américaine

## STEREOTYPES

non-progressive way, seeking adequacy and sufficiency in place of progress and advanced achievement. The Franco-heritage is that of an agrarian society, concentrating on obtaining a goal or quota (i.e. of food), not a surplus. Similarly, the Francos of today seek to achieve their goals, not surpass them. This lack of achievement orientation could be unjustly misinterpreted as laziness.

The freedom of expression exhibited by many Franco-Americans is often misunderstood. Such misunderstanding is the cause of the "emotional Frenchman". Since many Franco-Americans react from the gut rather than the head, they are considered temperamental, and overly emotional. This gut level reaction also perpetrates the "dumb Frenchman" stereotype, in that the Frenchman is regarded as non-thinking, simply because he does not react on the intelligence level first. Contrary to what the stereotype would indicate, an emotional reaction is not necessarily an indication of a lack of intelligence.

Franco-Americans are stereotyped as unwilling to change mainly because they still speak French, although they are Americans. Another factor is that they still abide by old customs and morals. Yet the Anglos do not see the conflicts which these people face. These conflicts will be discussed along with other harmful effects of stereotyping

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, as pointed out, is prominent in our nation. How many times have the lead-in lines "How does a Frenchman..." and "Did you hear the one about the dumb Frenchman who..." 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 Europeans confront. Nor do they suspect the double bind- outraged justice and deeply internalized self-concept that the constant pressure of ugly jokes and stereotypes imposes. The sting of Polish jokes is that they make our deepest self-doubts public. They keep us in our place. They canonize a caste from which many see no escape. Land of opportunity? Cannot some major center of learning conduct a study of how much damage is done to the psyches of people constantly stereotyped in public?

(cont. on pg. 8)

## DUMONT WARDEN OF THE YEAR.

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

Phil has been a district warden since June of 1957, 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 Phil 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 affects 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."

What seems to be 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 them into a value system of their own. The feelings experienced by

## FAROG (con't)

- ... "Après 200 ans, le bonheur est resté petit"
- ... "Maudit qu'y est bon notre petit pain"
- ... "L'avenir Franco, ça dépend de moi... et toi"
- ... "Franco du berceau au tombeau"
- ... "Misères et cordes, y en a en masse"

Si vous avez des suggestions ou des créations que vous voudriez ajouter à celles que vous avez déjà cochées, veuillez les écrire et m'envoyer le tout à FAROG 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,

*Yvan*

FAROG FORUM  
FERNALD HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE  
ORONO, MAINE 04473  
5-4-20904



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STAFF  
F.A.R.O.G. FORUM  
208 Fernald Hall  
UMO 581-7082  
Editor.....Daniel Chassé  
Information  
Editor.....Denise Carrier  
Graphics and  
Layout.....Denise Carrier  
Typing and  
Distribution...Lisa Daigle,  
Ann Hayden  
Photography and  
Darkroom.....Dan Chassé,  
Mark Violette  
Special Editor...Claire R. Bolduc

Francos caught in the conflict resulting from stereotyping is well expressed in the following passage:

Merci, 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 melting pot, and all that artificial rot... I don't know who's on your side, but it's time we ended linguisticide.