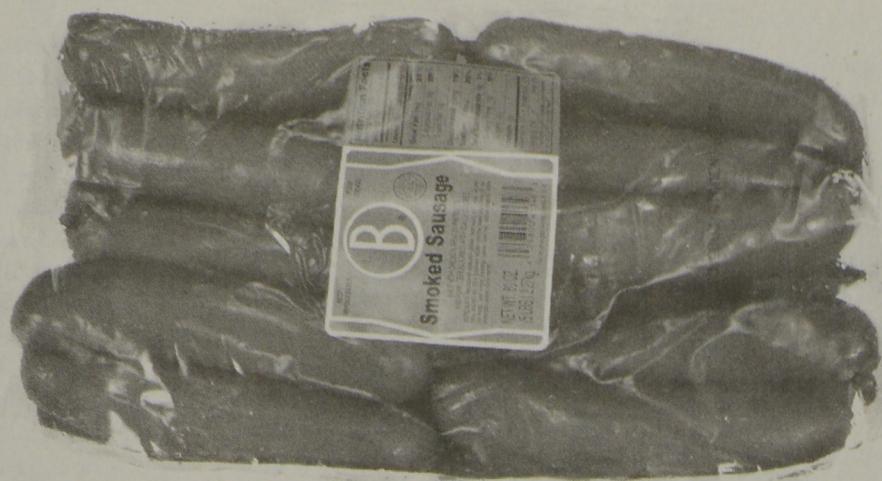


The old man rant

an opinion from Dave Evans



If there's anything I hate more than having to sit through a Paulie Shore movie, it's liars and shit-disturbers. The legions of you who faithfully read my "Old Man Rants" each week (and no doubt agree with them without question), you may have been shocked to read the allegations of one Mr. Blake McNeil. He claims that my rant is a sham, and that I am in fact not a cantankerous old coot. These accusations are more shocking than the time I walked down Main Street and realized I wasn't wearing any pants. To set the record straight, McNeil is just trying to stir up trouble in his latest attempt to discredit me. That old son of a bitch has been living across the street from me for the past 60 years, and let me tell you, the feud has been a bitter one. The year was 1947 and I was contemplating walking down to the general store to buy some rhubarb seeds as I thought having some sort of garden would look pretty sharp. That's when I saw him moving into the house across the street. I thought I'd be cordial, so I went over to introduce myself. He was kind of funny looking, and introduced himself as Blake McNeil. Normally, I wouldn't think anything odd about that, except I could tell he had a heavy German accent; I couldn't remember the last time an Irishman smelled like Oktoberfest sausages. With it only being a couple of years after the war, I was naturally suspicious, so I asked him about his whereabouts between the years of 1938 and 1945, to which he replied he was on vacation. I wasn't prepared to voice my suspicions, as I'm not a self-righteous, glory-hogging jackass like he is. I went back to my house, but you can be sure that I kept the cock-eye on him. I don't think he appreciated that I dropped a U-Boat on his front lawn, and we've been enemies ever since. In fact, I have photographic evidence of him out back of the Jean Coutu paying the neighbourhood shits to steal my rhubarb, which he then gets his wife to bake into pies he eats while sitting on his front porch. In fact, I'm surprised he even wrote those columns last week or read my previous rants, since I stole his glasses at the early bird buffet two weeks ago. So, now that the record has been set straight, I hope that you'll think twice before listening to anything that old son of a bitch tells you. The last time he gave anyone advice, I'm pretty sure the Wehrmacht lost worse than the NDP in a federal election.

Art & Lit



An open letter to Mr. Lamrock

Dear Editor:

Wasn't Lamrock supposed to be this smart messiah of change, coming in on the wings of angels? Did he just check all that experience and will to fight for students at the door after leaving UNB/STU for the legislature? I figured being an MLA pays better than his former lobbyist position at the

CFS, but I could be wrong. We've already lost middle immersion classes in this province, why then are we throwing the baby out with the bath water by doing away with early immersion as well? It's unfortunate to see him lobbying for change that is regressive and taking the province back in time. I figure, if I wanted to be told where to send my kids to school based on their mother tongue, I'd live in Quebec, not NB.

It's unnerving that I and many other voters have to deal with bad governance granted to us by a little under half the voting electorate.

The problem is not the political popularity of his decision and the lack thereof, but how we, the electorate, become slaves to our political masters for four troublesome years. There is no accountability for poor bureaucratic decisions, as there is no mechanism to make sure his decision is reflective of the voice of the people when our trust has been breached. This question of eliminating early immersion deserves to go to referendum.

Lamrock, a technocrat wannabe, brings out the true etymology of democracy—rule by mob. This public servant is no longer serving us... I'd call for the "demos" to take swift action to show our displeasure by placing him under the lovely French invention known as the guillotine, alas, I fear it would not stop his rolling head from telling us he knows best.

Amit Virmani
Hanwell NB,
off at Queen's University

An open letter to Mr. Lamrock and Mr. Graham

Mr. Lamrock and Mr. Graham:

I am fed up with hearing you talk about the "privileged" children in EFL. I am a single mother of two children who attend EFL. I work very hard to make ends meet and we do not have any "extras" whatsoever! As a matter of fact, we have gone without food on far too many occasions and yet, I still send my children to Early French Immersion. I am certain that I am not the only "less privileged" parent sending her children to French.

Immersion. This is an absolute insult to many parents who are trying very hard to give their children the best they can provide.

Secondly, these literacy tests that you so obviously hold in such high esteem are nothing more than smoke and mirrors. These have absolutely nothing to do with

intelligence. The fact is, not every person will attend university, which you obviously think is the only meaningful measure of a person's intelligence, and yet will go on to become very intelligent trades people, business people and entrepreneurs, to name a few. Further, having EFL available will only make them

more competent AND bilingual to carry on their chosen professions, hopefully in the province of New Brunswick.

Thirdly, could you please be honest about why you want to scrap the EFL program? You have yet to tell the people of New Brunswick, the people who voted for you by the way, the truth behind this ridiculous decision. You have changed your story so many times, it's obvious you are hiding something. I would hazard a guess however, that you are stealing from the children who are successful, which could be any child if the parents so choose, to improve the useless literacy scores that measure absolutely nothing except the stupidity of politicians such as yourself who believe they mean anything whatsoever.

Perhaps we can develop a test to measure politicians' intelligence and compare them nationally. I feel certain the Liberal party of New Brunswick would be scraping the bottom of the barrel.

Sincerely,
Joanne Underhill
(Ex-liberal supporter, particularly in New Brunswick)

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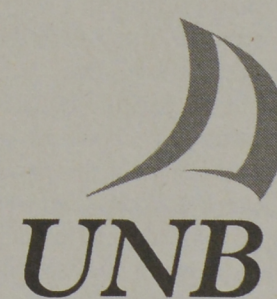
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