

# Favourite sketches from the 1995 Quebec referendum by the Montreal Gazette's Aislin

[Terry Mosher, Montreal Gazette](#)

[More from Terry Mosher, Montreal Gazette](#)

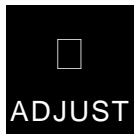
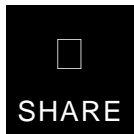
Published on: October 31, 2015 | Last Updated: October 31, 2015 7:56 AM EST

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxp2BKnoSA8>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxp2BKnoSA8&list=PLNjtpXOAJhQKmaGDTJJQeAS-0AnBsAi>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bxp2BKnoSA8&list=PLNjtpXOAJhQjwW8MHLsGNsCQbsZKbi8Zp>





Gazette cartoonist Terry Mosher, a.k.a. Aislin, had plenty of fodder for political lampooning in the leadup to the 1995 Quebec referendum. Here is a compilation of his referendum sketches.

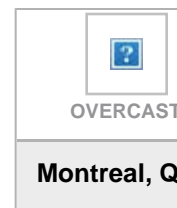


“There was a naivete about the 1980 referendum, an enthusiasm if you will. But nobody had ever done this before; it was a great experiment. Also, the opposition forces were very strong – the ‘No’ forces. In 1995, the PQ were seasoned, they were craftier, Jacques Parizeau was a very calculating person. The opposition wasn’t that strong. So I think that there was more of a fear element that this might actually happen.”  
AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE

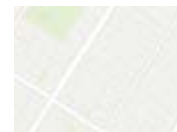
NEWS



WEATH

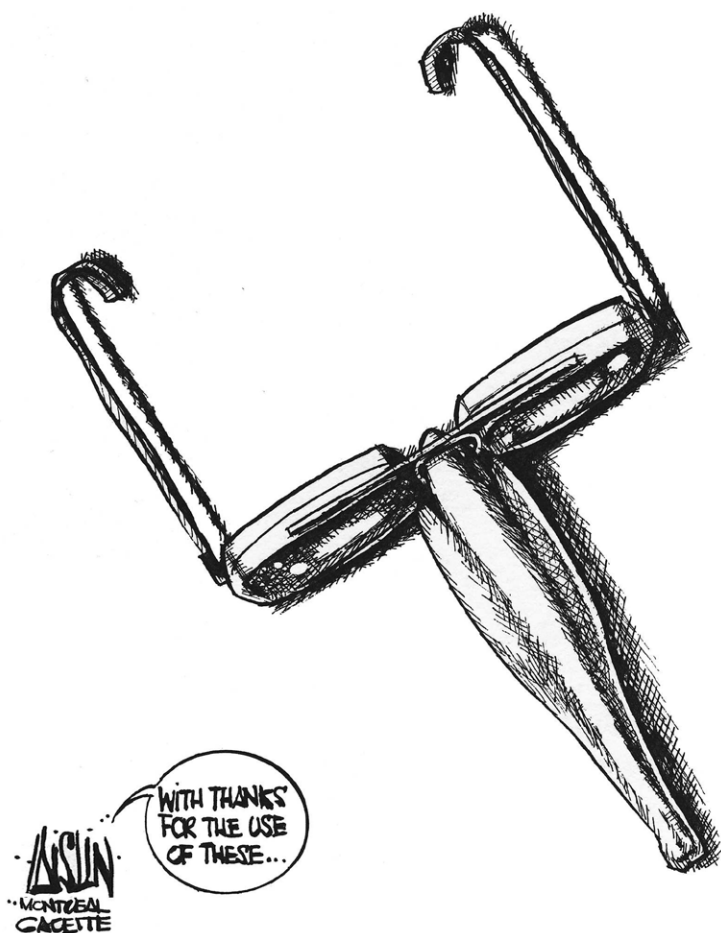


TRAFFI

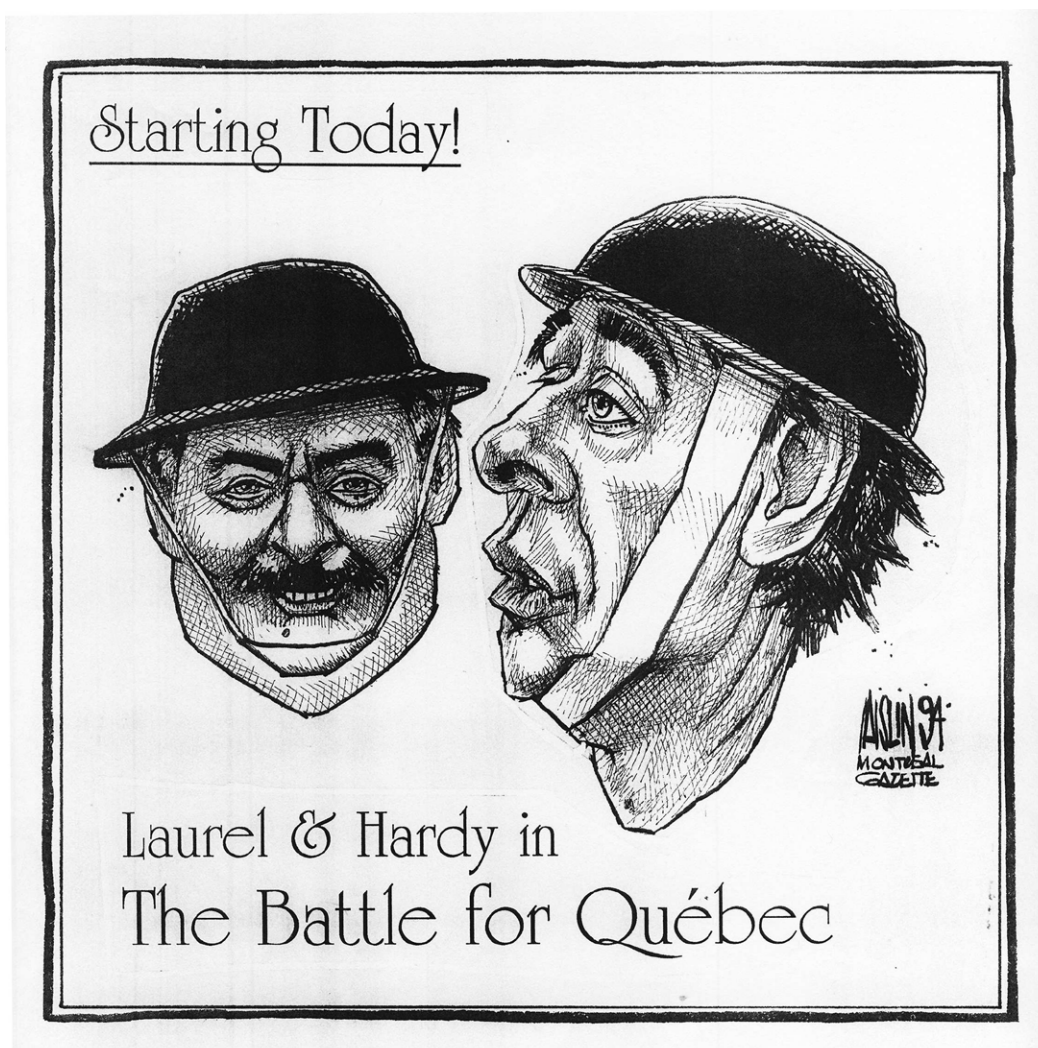


CLASSI





**"I don't know if the 1995 referendum would have happened if Robert Bourassa had not retired — and eventually died within a couple of years. He was a very strong personality; he would have been a good match for Jacques Parizeau." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE**



**"I suppose the person who replaced him was Daniel Johnson... a very nice fellow, but very ineffective, and didn't capture people's imagination." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE**



“In 1994 Jacques Parizeau was elected, handily, as the premier of Quebec. Within a year there would be a referendum. He knew he had to strike right away. Otherwise once he got involved with government affairs, it would fade away, and cynicism would begin to set in.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



**"Making some of us very queasy... the referendum was called." AISLIN /**  
MONTREAL GAZETTE



"The referendum in 1995 was scheduled for October 30th. Over the summer, people didn't want to know about this, and there was sort of a tedium about it. People weren't all that interested." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE

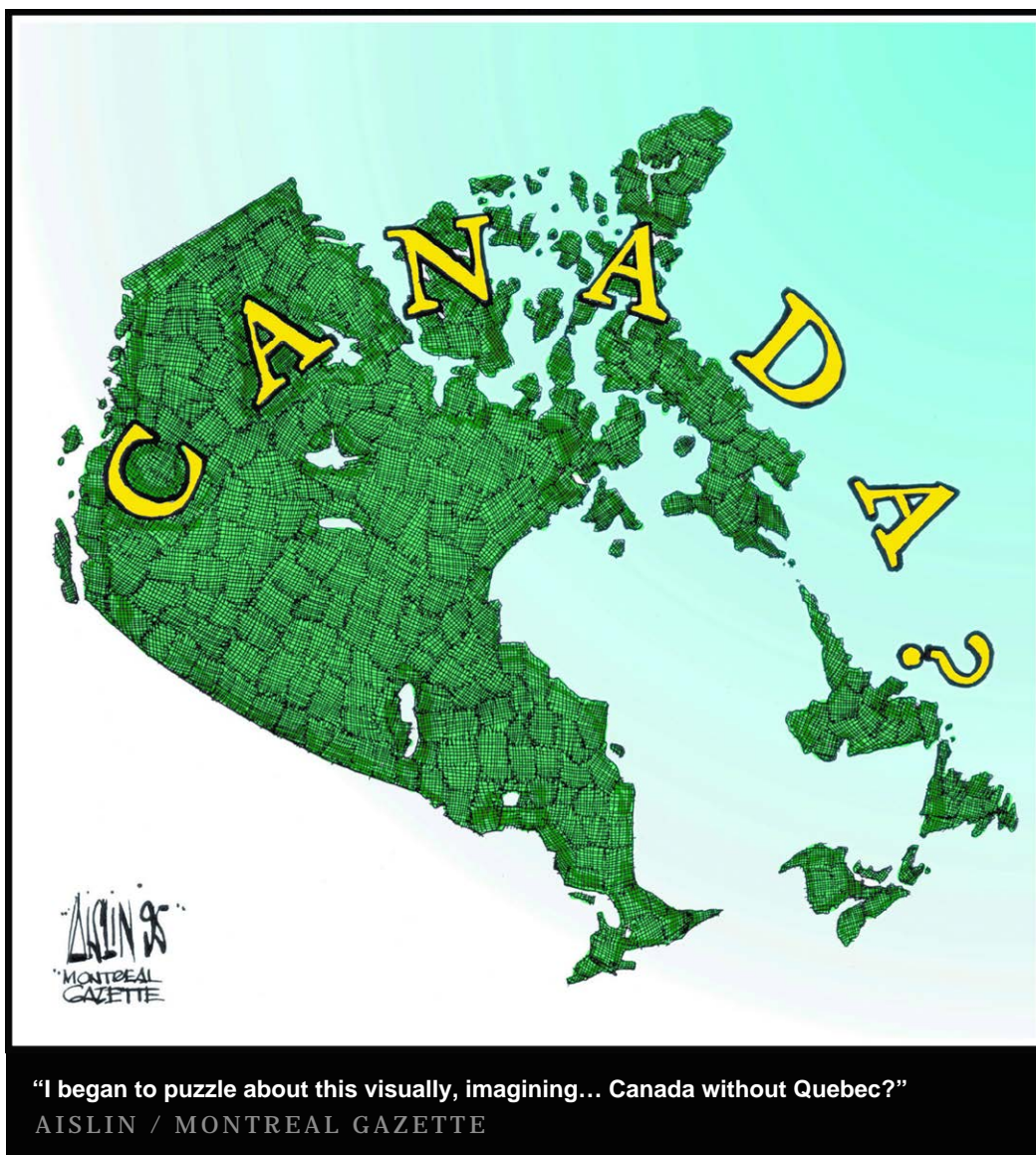


“But then it began to really heat up in September. It’s as if people woke up: the polls were showing that there was an extreme possibility. So there was definitely fear in the air about this actually happening... about the ‘Oui’ side winning.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



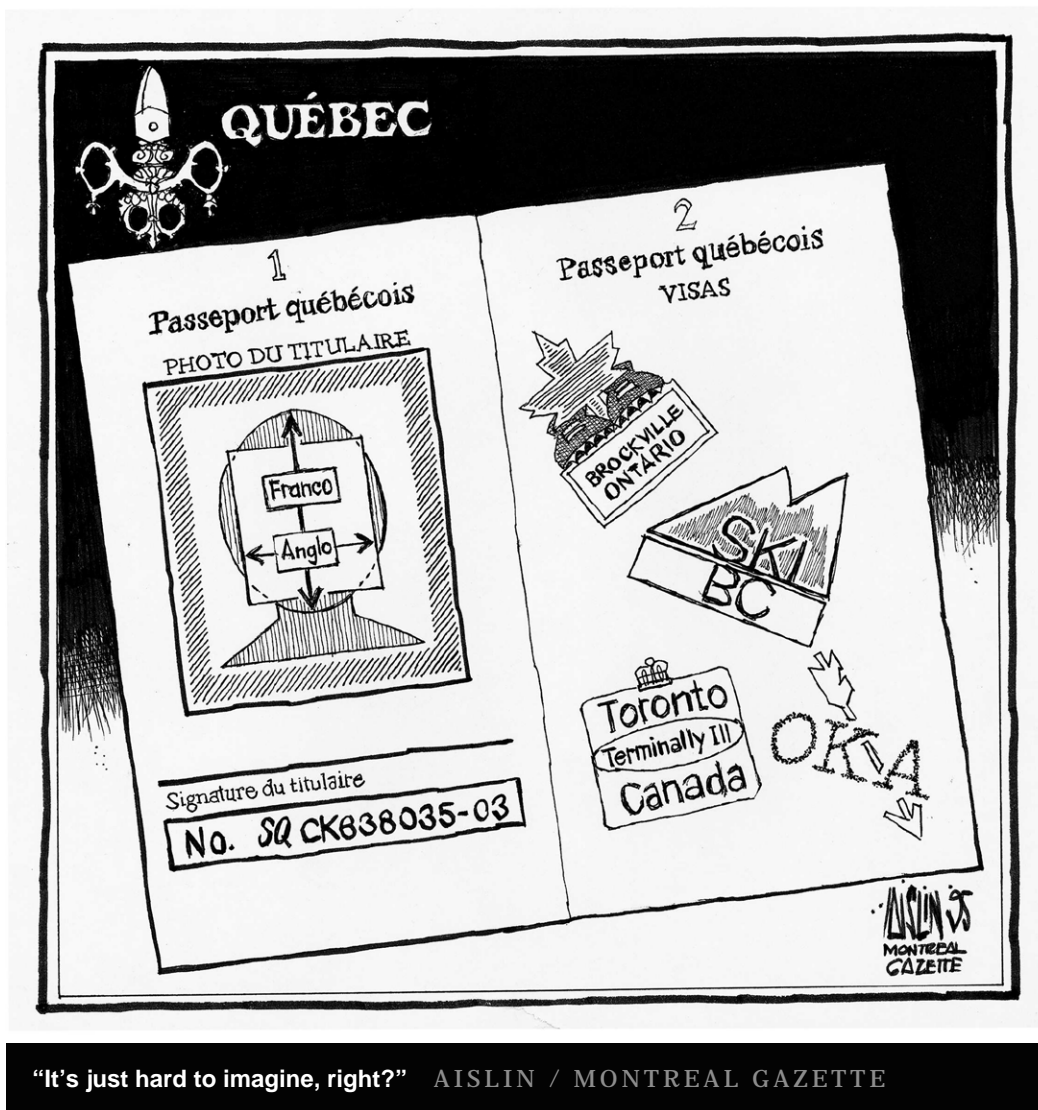


"The stars seemed to be aligned for this referendum, because in Ottawa, Jean Chretien had just been elected as prime minister. He was sort of learning the ropes. But his leader of the opposition was Lucien Bouchard, who was on his case. So Chretien was a little preoccupied in Ottawa. So it all looked very good for the Parti Quebecois, and the possibility of a 'Yes' vote." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE

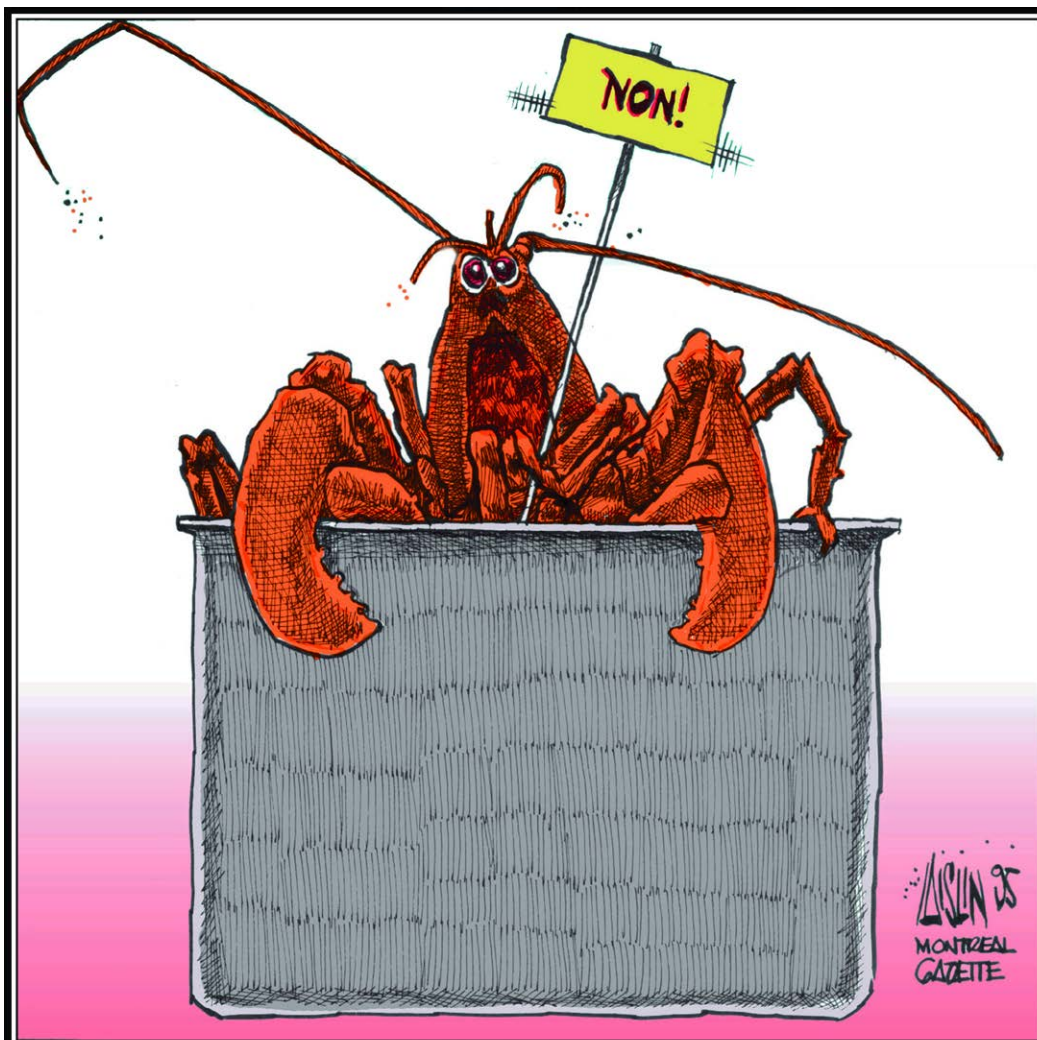


"I began to puzzle about this visually, imagining... Canada without Quebec?"

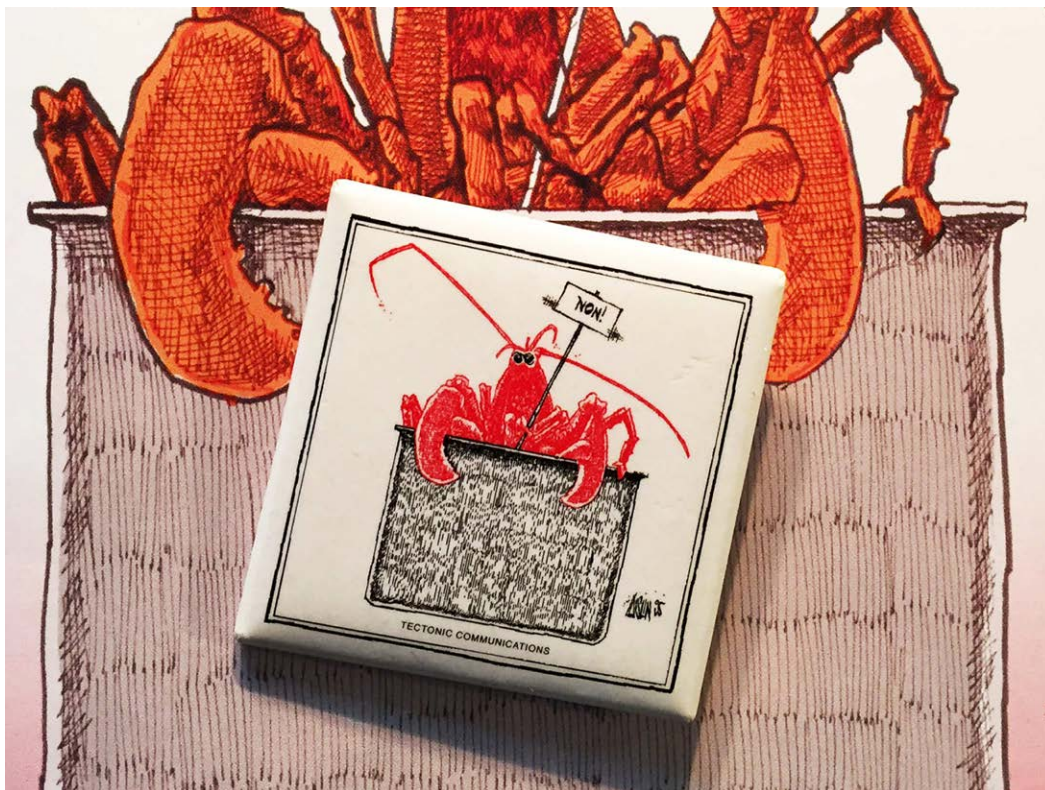
AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



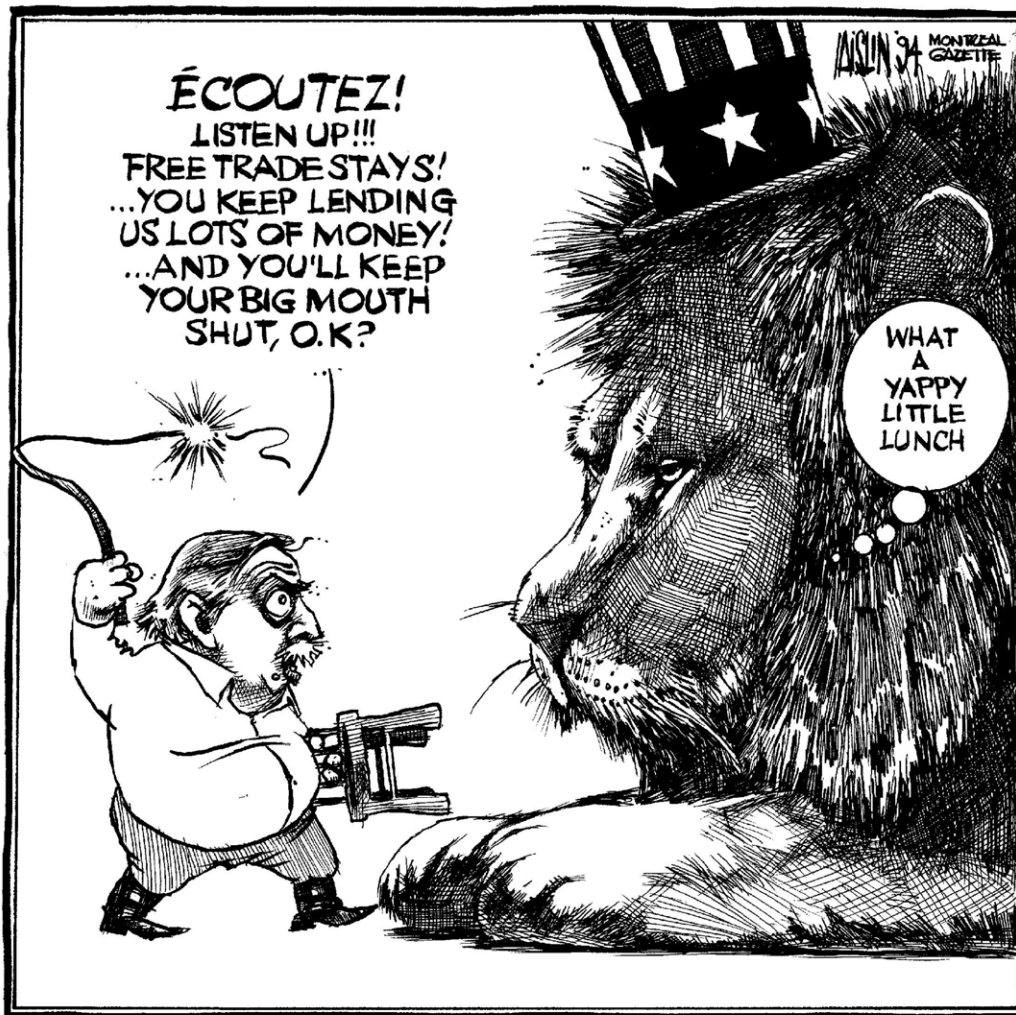
"It's just hard to imagine, right?" AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



“Mid-summer, before the election, Jacques Parizeau was caught , off the record, saying that if Quebecers actually voted ‘Yes,’ they would be cooked like lobsters in a pot. And that’s a pretty dramatic image when you think about it.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



**“The lobster in the pot cartoon was so popular, and it caught on with the ‘Non’ forces. And people began producing buttons and passing them out all over town.”** AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



"Parizeau's lofty, confident self came out. He immediately announced that an independent Quebec would keep free trade with the United States... as if Americans had nothing to say about that! AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



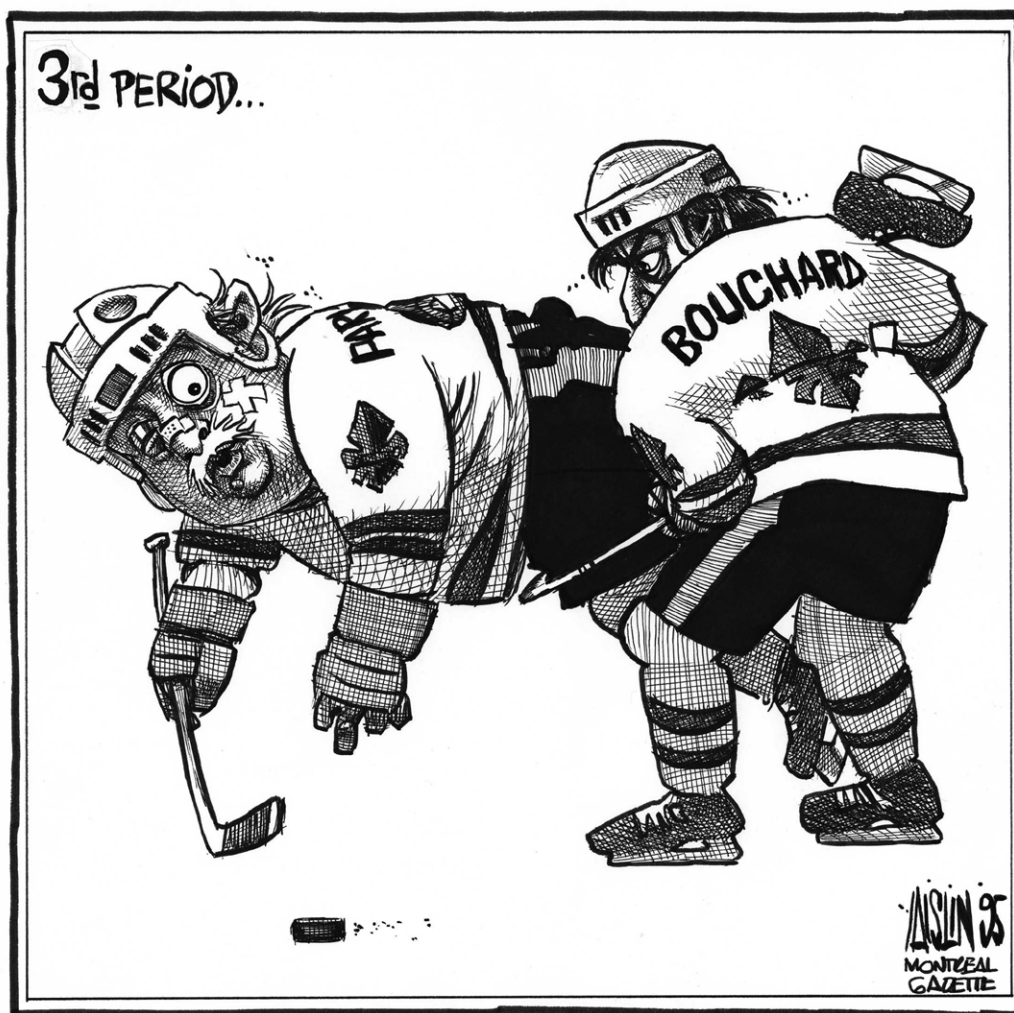
"He told Canada, blatantly, 'Look, just let us go. We shouldn't have to have a referendum. If you don't let us go, we're going to have referendum after referendum, and it's going to be like a trip to the dentist.'" AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



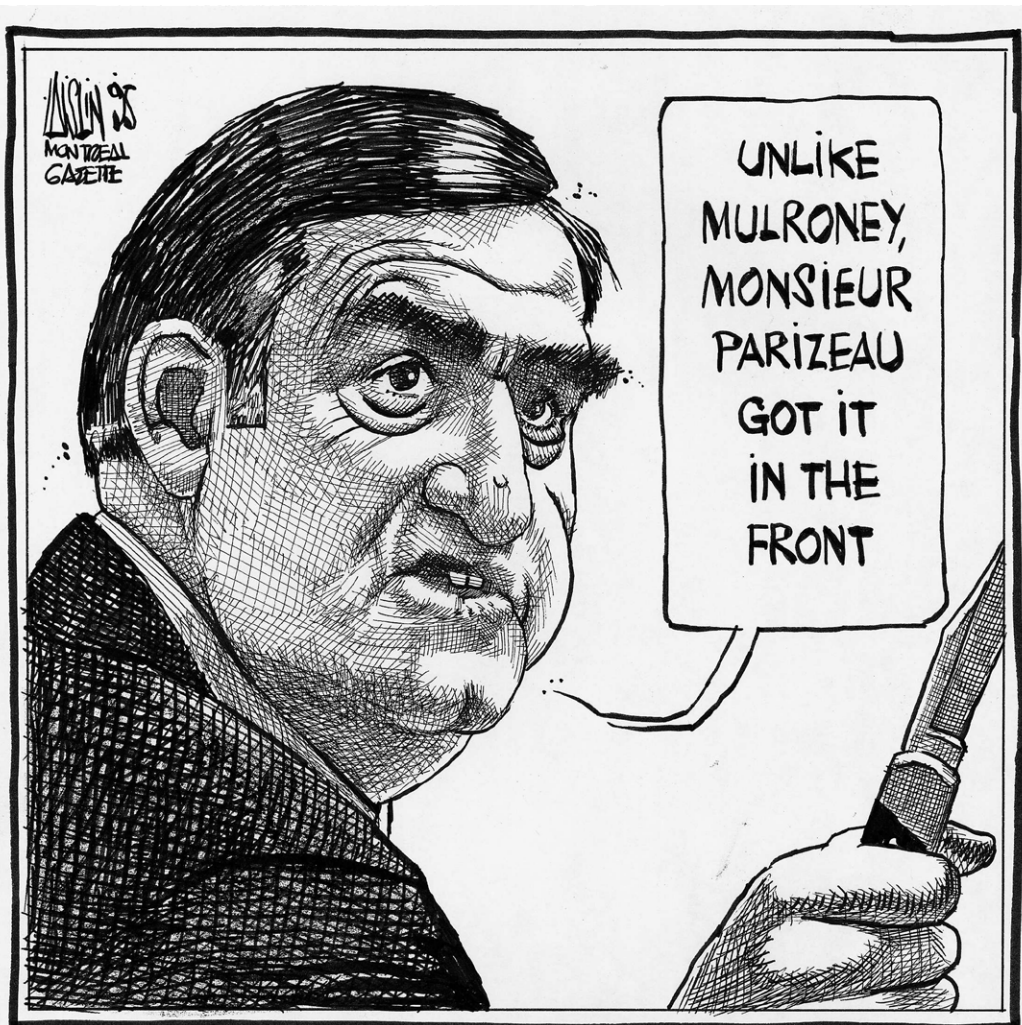




“Jacques Parizeau at one point made reference to the referendum being like a hockey game, and them being in the third period. The problem was that he was losing in the third period... it wasn't catching on. It wasn't working, with the arrogance of Jacques Parizeau.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



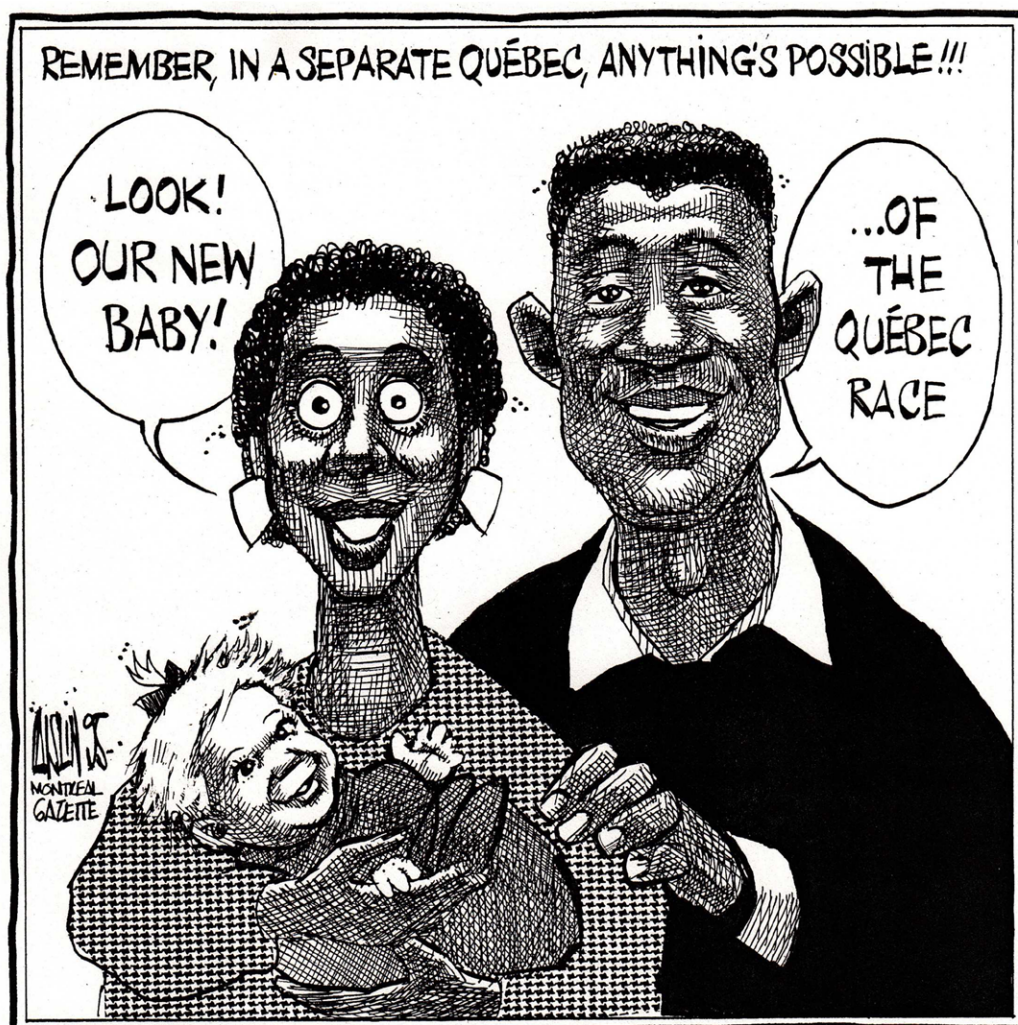
“So, in a panic, Lucien Bouchard was brought in from Ottawa to, in effect, run the campaign. And he took over... tripping up Parizeau in the hockey game, even though they're on the same team.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



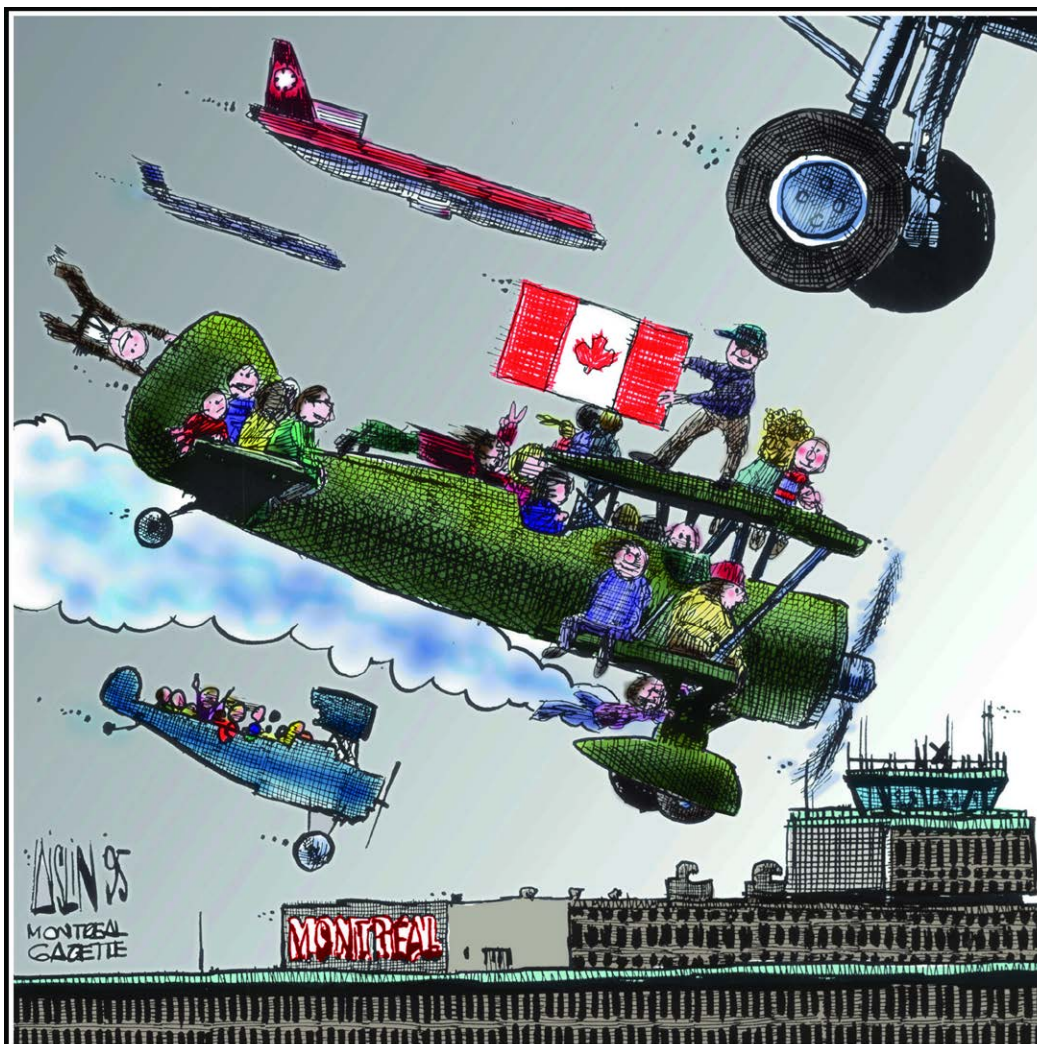
"Lucien Bouchard was brought in from Ottawa to run the campaign." AISLIN /  
MONTREAL GAZETTE



“Jacques Parizeau and his wife Lisette were sent to the back of the Parti Québécois bus” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



"Lucien Bouchard also uttered some unfortunate words. At one point he said something about the birthrate being too low in Quebec. And he was saying that we were the only white society that was not having enough babies. So I did a cartoon of a black couple, with a white baby, delighted, saying that all things are possible in a separate Quebec." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



“The monster rally that was held in Place du Canada... it’s hard to know how effective that was. It certainly was a rallying point for the ‘Non’ forces, but many other people resented Canada trying to tell us what to do in Quebec. They thought it was their own affair.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE

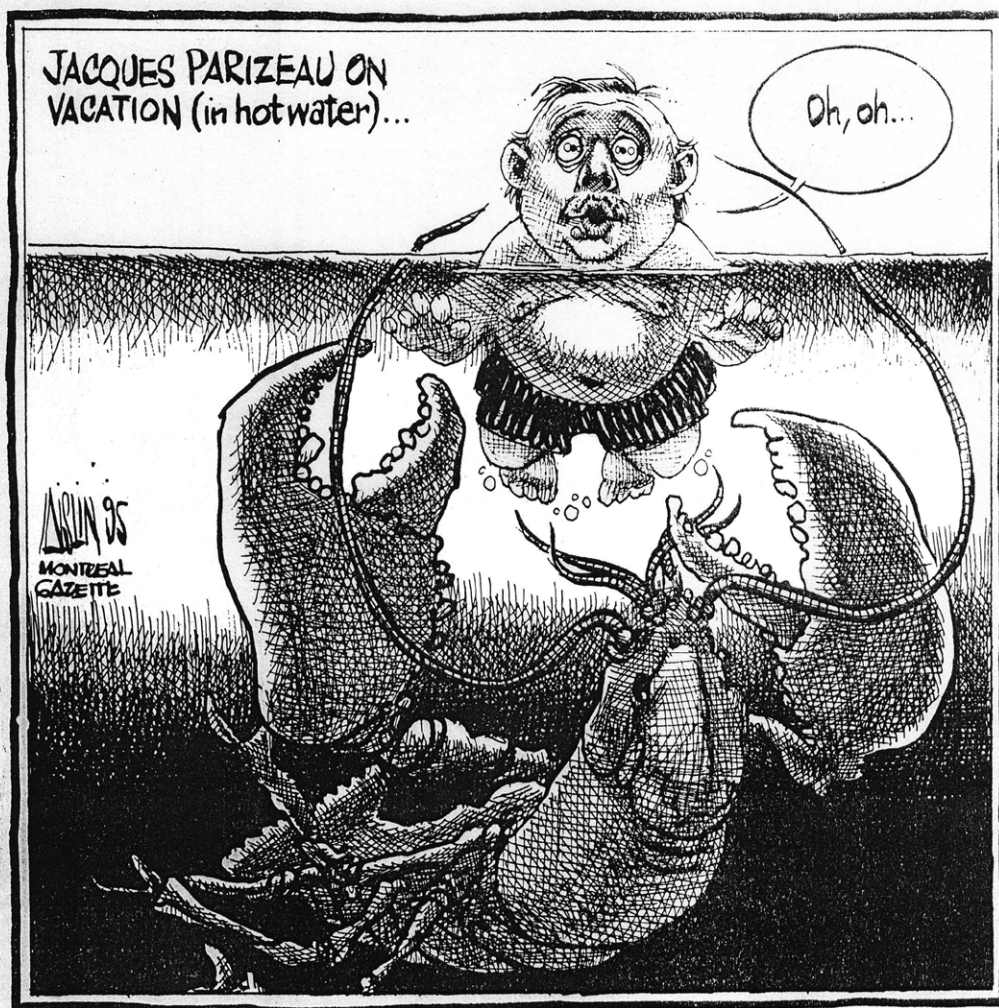


"Referendum night was really quite something. I had several cartoons prepared just in case. Because the polls were telling us that it was very, very close." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE

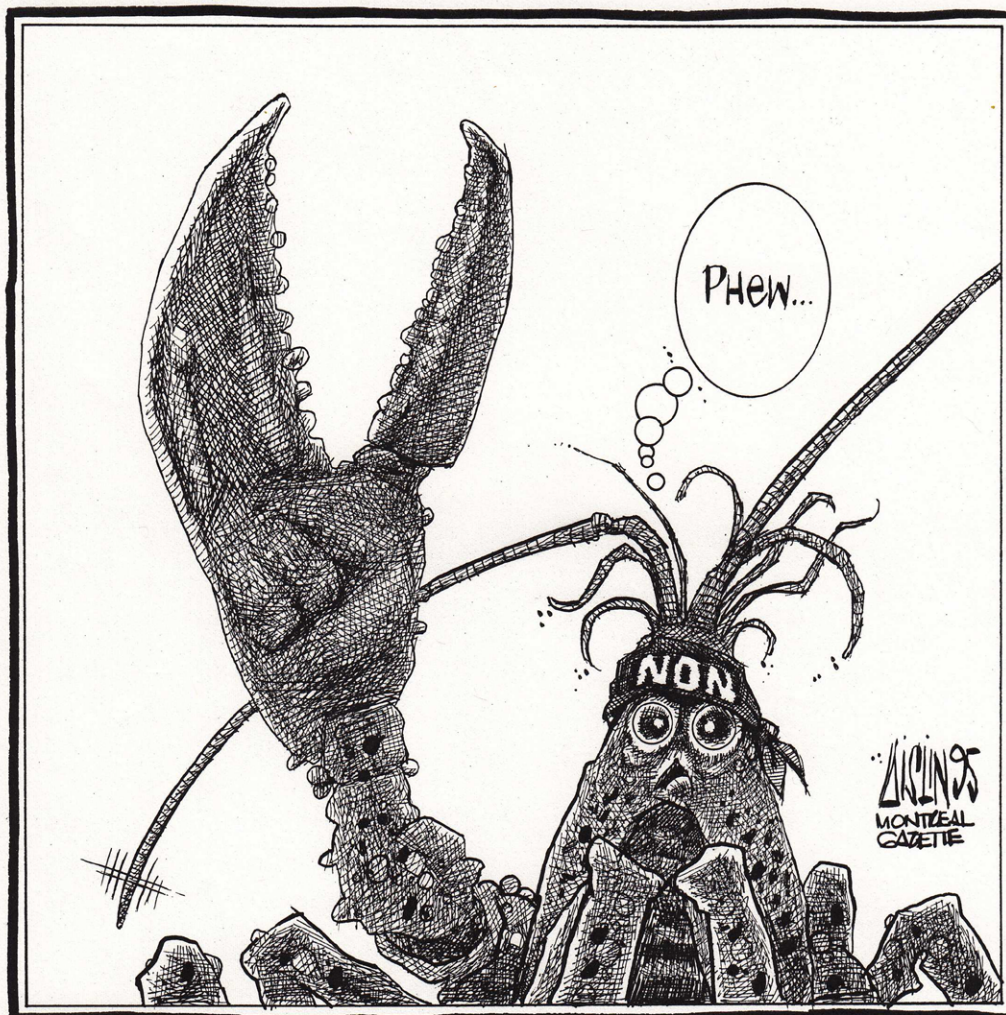


"The first votes came in from the country, and it looked like the 'Yes' vote was at 70% or something! And then it began to go down, and down... 68%, 64% and so on. It was very tense in the newsroom, and I would imagine all over the city." AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE

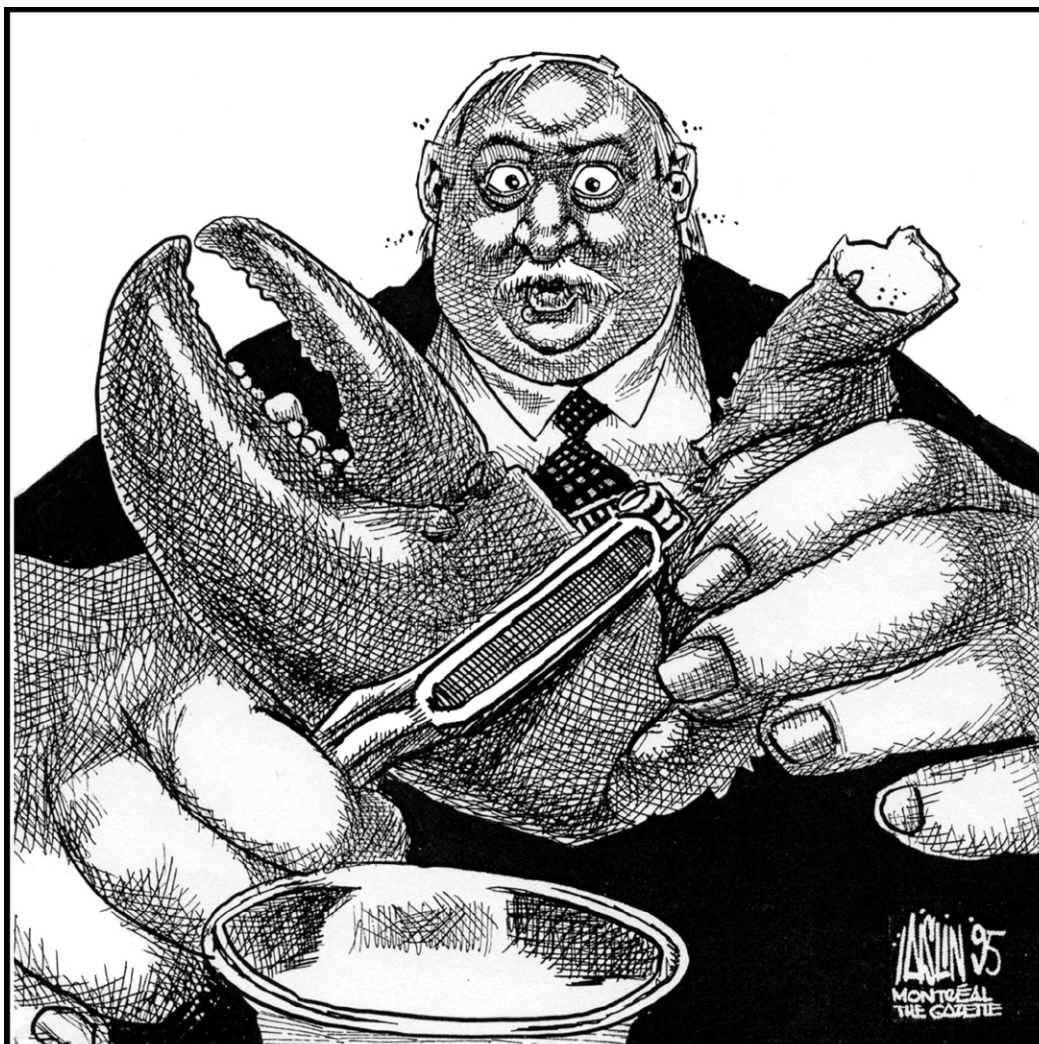




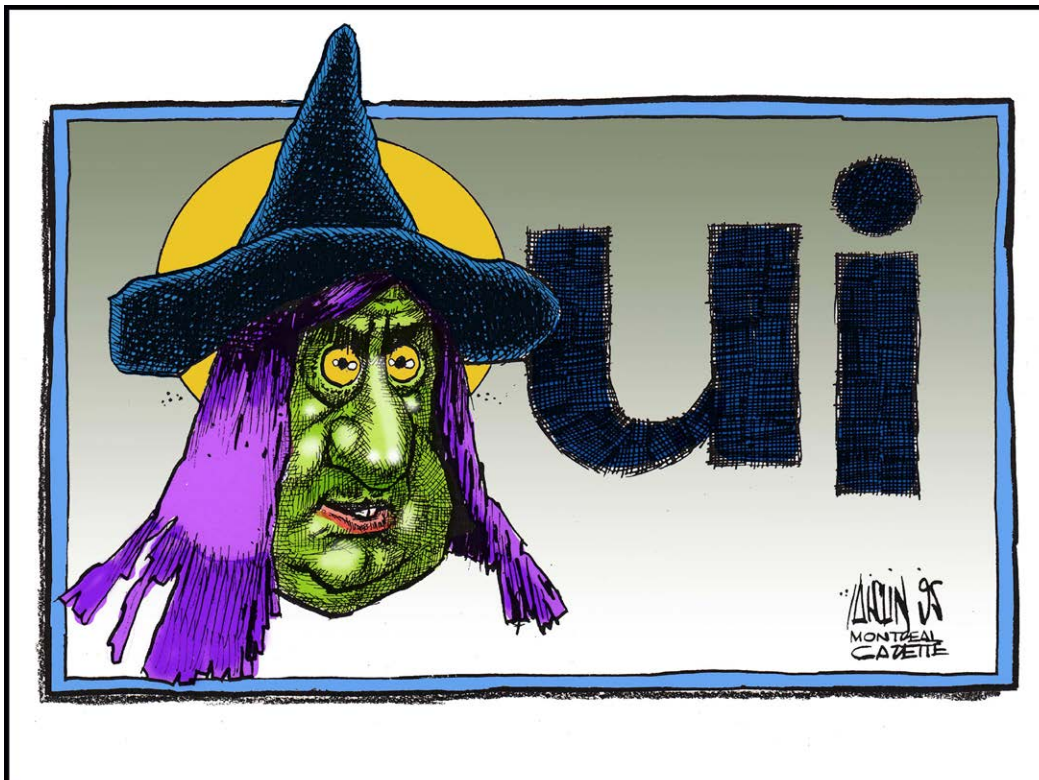
“When it dipped below 50%, a cheer — an actual cheer — went up in the newsroom. I had never heard that before. That was really quite something.” AISLIN /  
MONTREAL GAZETTE



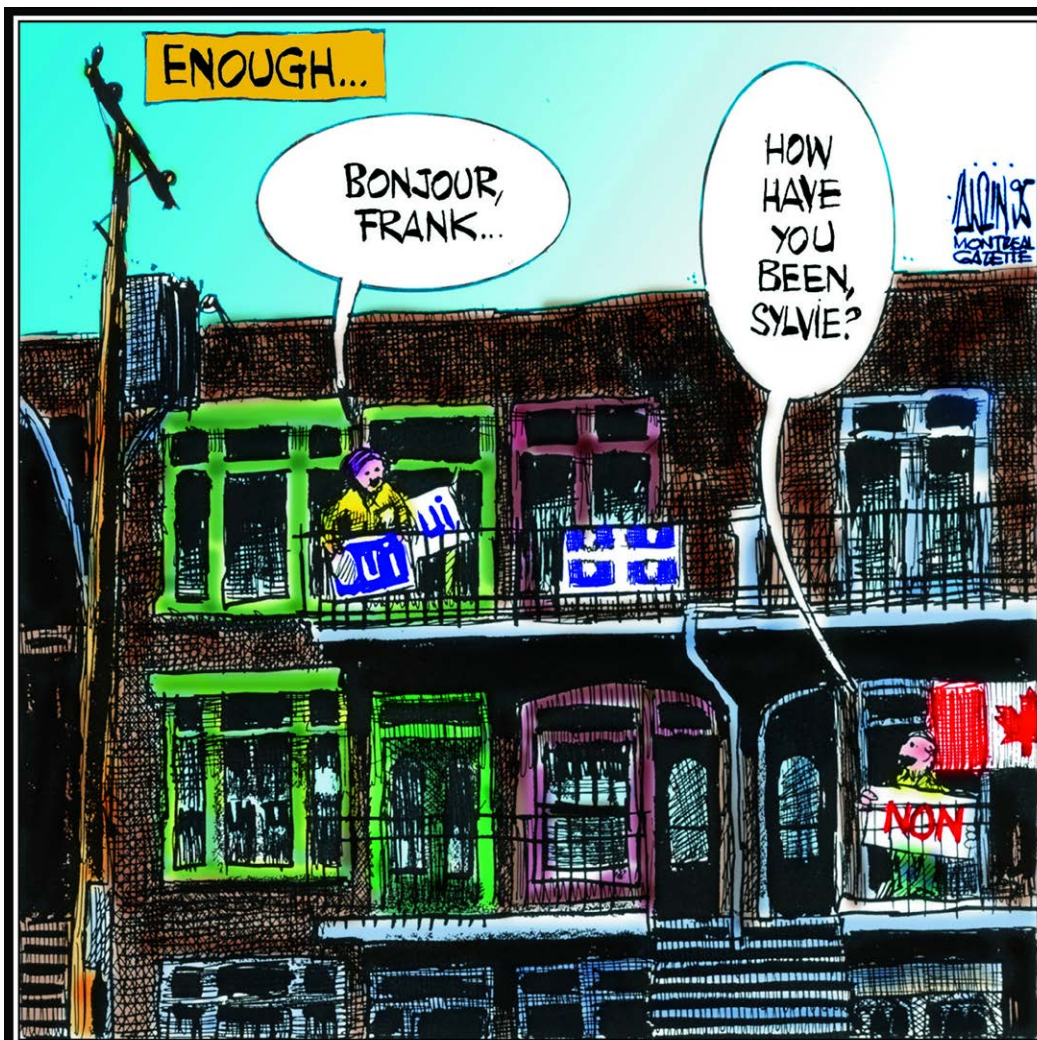
“Eventually of course the ‘Non’ side squeaked through, and my cartoon on the editorial page of the Gazette the following day was of a very relieved lobster.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



“The cartoon that would have appeared in the paper if in fact the ‘Yes’ side had won would have been of Jacques Parizeau, delighted and consuming a lobster.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



“Another decision was made at the Gazette that if in fact the ‘Yes’ side had won, this cartoon would have run on the front page of the Gazette the morning after. Remember, it was Halloween.” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



“The referendum was over. There was a great deal of relief on both sides. And I tried to sum that up, that relief; ‘Finally, we can go back to being friends.’” AISLIN / MONTREAL GAZETTE



□ Boil-water advisory lifted after Villeray water-main break



These streets weren't made for seniors

PREVIOUS

NEXT

## Comments

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the upper right corner of the comment box to report spam or abuse. We are using Facebook commenting. Visit our [FAQ page](#) for more information.

### NEWS

Local News  
Quebec  
National  
World

### OPINION

Columnists  
Editorials  
Letters  
Aislin and Pascal  
editorial cartoons

### SPORTS

Hockey Inside/Out  
Hockey  
Football  
Soccer  
Baseball  
Basketball  
Tennis  
Golf  
Auto Racing

### BUSINESS

FP Markets  
FP Headlines  
FP Money  
Energy  
Local Business  
Technology

### ARTS

Words and Music  
Showbiz Chez Nous  
Movies  
Television  
Theatre  
Music  
Books  
Celebrity



© 2015 Postmedia Network Inc. All rights reserved.

Unauthorized distribution, transmission or republication strictly prohibited.

Powered by [WordPress.com](#) VIP

### CLASSIFIEDS

Driving  
Obits  
Announcements  
FlyerCity  
Shopping  
Careers

### LEGAL

Privacy  
Terms  
Copyright & Permissions

### SERVICES

Advertise With Us  
Subscribe  
My Subscription  
Contact  
ePaper  
Digital Access