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Thursday, March 13, 1986

Opinion

Crazy currency



THINK ABOUT IT!

by Greg Whiting

NEWS ITEM: On January 8, 1986, the U.S. Treasury Department announced that American paper money would soon be changed for the first time in over 50 years. "New color photocopies make counterfeiting too easy," said a Treasury official.

Well, they Trouble down south in the U.S. Trouble with a capital T. But we have a Problem here, and it's time to change Canadian money too.

What problem, you ask? Why, it's obvious! The queen is not a Canadian and her portrait should be replaced by pictures of famous Canadians.

Did I hear someone say, "Which famous Canadians?" Yes, the fellow in the green shirt in the third row did. Don't deny it, sir. Well, I don't think that we should use ex-politicians. That's what stamps are for. Yes, Canadian politicians are already on four of the bills. But getting our current reps to agree on nine more ex-politicos would just plain take too long. Why, they'd still be debating Trudeau when the next ice age comes! And then we'd all have to move to

Florida and use American money, which would make this problem academic.

Of course, that leaves us without an answer to our question. Let me ask you, though: which group of Canadians is respected throughout the nation and has produced more famous Canadians than any other group? Yes, that's right. The lady in blue near the back said hockey players. Did the spelling give it away, miss?

Which hockey players, you ask? Well, for the six coins, we could probably have the sportswriters work up some kind of all-time all-star team. How about Bobby Hull on left wing and the penny, Wayne Gretzky at center and on the nickel, Gordie Howe on right wing and the dime, Bobby Orr on defense and the quarter, Doug Harvey on defense and the half, and Jacques Plante in goal and on the dollar? You don't like that list? Well, we've got some bills to redesign, too. We could put Howie Morenz on the one, Maurice Richard on the two, and Ken Dryden on the twenty.

How about Phil Esposito, Frank Mahovlich, Tim Horton, and Frank McGee? Good points. The above isn't a final list, it's just mine. And I certainly might have left someone out. Feel free to disagree with any of those choices.

What about putting them on the other bills, you say? Why, that just might work! The hockey players would get more respect and would be better known than the politicians on them now. But that's really a topic for another column.

Cuddly Canucks

by Audrey S. Djuwita

Canadians are cute, confused, unique, and adorable.

You simply can't hate the Canadians, they are too cute for anybody to hate. They are like your best friends, fun to be with, not too stuffy, and not too wild.

It's hard to find a Canadian butler who lives up to the image of a perfect British butler. (Have you ever wondered why it is that in whodunit movies, the butler who did it was never a Canadian?) Canadians are just too friendly and relaxed to look as if they are starched from head to toe. Besides, who cares about stiff upper lip or stiff lower lip. Even the government tells them to smile. Mind you, although they are a friendly bunch, Canadians never get really chummy with you until they find out what your paternal grandmother's father in law did for a living.

Like teenagers at the verge of adulthood, they seek approval and recognition, but the moment the spotlight is on them they shy away and blush furiously. (Though very flattered.)

Their fears and insecurities often screw up their attempts to act like an adult. At times, Canadians make you feel very proud, but they leave you exasperated the rest of the time.

Canadians are also very confused. For example, the anglophones keep on telling the Francophones to use English. To hell with Bill 101. Naturally, the Francophones aren't pleased, they tell the Anglophones to just shut up and learn French, after all, isn't French also Canada's official language? And the battle continues.

Honestly, why all the fuss? Canadians are lucky, they only have two official languages. In Singapore, there are three official languages, each with its own characters/alphabets, and most of the people there know at least two official languages plus English. Canadians should learn both of their official languages. Problem solved. There's got to be a law saying that it's mandatory for Canadians to learn English and French until they are 16 or something like that. Okay, so not many people speak French in say, Flatbush, and even if they do, they might not be able to use it since nobody else knows it. But, if it's mandatory, then most Canadians would know French and they would be able to communicate with their fellow Canadians in either French or English.

Canadians worry over their popularity ranking in the (world) community. They wonder why it is that even though they are nicer and less demanding than their American neighbours, (people told them so), they haven't yet reached the status of being the most popular folks in the neighbourhood. People still come up to them and comment: "say, aren't you from Canada? Cold but nice place, we loved it there, thought it was the greatest state in the good old USA. lucky you!"

Basically, no one can dispute the fact that Canadians are generous people. They give lots of help to those who are less fortunate, expecting little in return. Unlike the Americans who keep on reminding you how much you owe them, Canadians are



more subtle when they want something back, they sort of make you feel: "gosh, we really should do something nice for them, they have been so wonderful to us."

Deep and way way down at the bottom of their hearts, Canadians are patriotic citizens. So deep are these feelings, Canadians have trouble expressing them. Some can't even sing "O Canada" without pausing after the second sentence, frowning and trying to remember what comes after "true patriot love in all thy sons command." Then, there are those who curse under their breath when the song is sung in French. Well, at least they know that the song ends with "O Canada, we stand on guard for thee!" It is possible that part of the attraction of Hockey Nights in Canada is the singing of "O Canada". Canadians don't get to hear their national anthem very often otherwise.

You'd probably think that the anthem is very long, but no, it's not; it's much shorter than the Star-Spangled Banner. It's also very Canadian. There's just a heartwarming, down to earth kind of pride in one's homeland throughout the song, pledging very sincerely and realistically to keep the "True North strong and free!" Nothing heartwrenching such as "...where is that band who so vauntingly swore, that the havoc of war and the battle's confusion a home and a country should leave us no more?" No mention of gory details like blood, glamorous achievements like rocket's glare, or ego-boosting things like home of the brave.

Uh-uh. Nothing violent, it's taboo. See, aren't Canadians nice and peaceful? Please note: Canadians aren't cowardly, they are peaceful and non-violent.

Of course, all this is just a generalization. So, if you ever bump into a Canadian who is boisterous, stuffy or war-crazy, remember that every human being is unique, and that means Canadians, each and everyone of them, are unique. Just like you and me. (Geez, why did I bother to write this then?)