

Arts

There is a distinct Canadian character - Pierre Berton

Why We Act Like Canadians
Pierre Berton
1982

McClelland and Stewart
by Geoff Martin

What Pierre Berton is trying to do in his latest book, *Why We Act Like Canadians*, is perhaps the greatest question of all.

Written in the form of six letters to 'Sam', the mythical American friend (or Uncle), Berton uses his personal recollections to explain why Canada is like it is.

It is clear that Berton knows what he is talking about when Canadian history/society is his topic of discussion. This is his 28th book on Canada. The question is, what is he trying to accomplish in this latest effort?

One might say Berton is trying to identify and rationalize the 'Canadian National Character', which, despite first impression, still does exist and is presently waging a vigorous campaign (along with Canadian culture) for survival. The

less obvious problem is determining who Berton was aiming the book at, or who he wanted to read it.

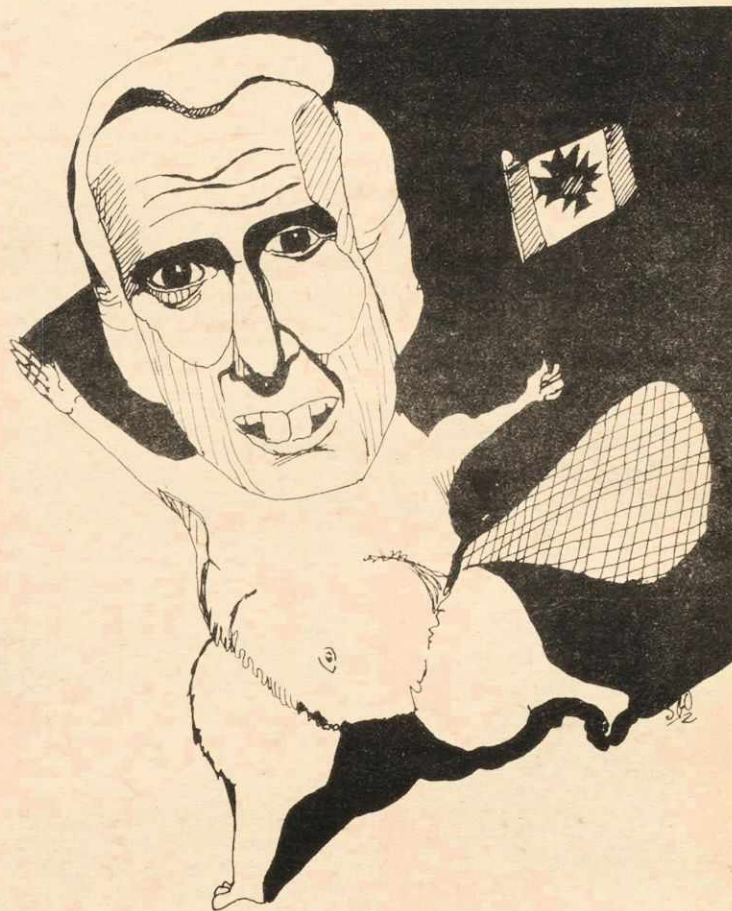
The title might suggest it is attempting to act as a guide for curious Americans, but a reading will quickly dispel this ideal. This book is clearly written for Canadians who want a quick overview of the national character. Like everything else Berton has written, it is supposed to inform us about *our* country in a time of American media domination. Unfortunately, the same American media probably has a stranglehold on the people Berton must reach to be successful. And it's no use preaching to the converted.

If you are in the mood for an injection of Canadian history and a little national pride, then this book is for you. If you are interested in reading about Mounties in scarlet coats, Canadian "Peace, Order and Strong (sic) Government" and why we prefer it to "Rugged Individual-

ism", and discovering the influence of the Canadian winter upon us, then you will probably like this book.

There are also interesting discussions on other subjects, like the fact that Canada shouldn't act like the United States anyway. Canada has strong government, he argues, because we have always *needed* strong government to survive as a nation. Because of what he terms the "Scottish-Loyalist-Puritan" influence, Canadians are more austere, disciplined and obedient to authority than Americans.

The book is a highly nationalistic work in a time of 'Sectionalism' and 'Separatism' (both typically Canadian words). One might even think it is Pierre Berton's personal manifesto for national preservation. If so, Berton succeeds, as it will probably make anyone (who has a touch of the Canadian National Character) feel a lot better about Canada.



egassem siht ni si nataS - honest

VANCOUVER (CUP) - Goodness gracious, great balls of fire - the devil is behind that evil rock and roll!

Rock and roll damnation was the heavy metal message fundamentalist preacher Nick Pappis and the Marantha Campus Ministries brought to the University of B.C. in September.

Pappis believes that all rock and roll comes straight from hell with Satan playing lead guitar. At a "fact-filled rock and roll mini-seminar" the gospel according to Pappis made clear that:

- John Lennon was shot to death shortly after he publicly renounced Christ (Lennon raised the hackles of the holy in 1966 when he said the Beatles were more popular than Jesus Christ.)

- John Hinckley shot Ronald Reagan after listening to the Talking Heads' tune *Psycho Killer*;

- Bon Scott, the late AC/DC singer, was a dog, because in the Bible the dog returns to its own vomit. (Scott asphyxiated on his own vomit);

- Rush directly mocked Christ by putting out an album showing a Christian being sacrificed on a pentagram, which Pappis called a demonic star;

- Several rock songs, when played backwards, are homages to Satan. Electric Light Orchestra's

Eldorado says, "He is the nasty one, Christ you're infernal." Rush's *Anthem* states, "Oh Satan, you, you are the one who is shining." Led Zeppelin's famous *Stairway to Heaven* really leads the other way - "My sweet Satan, no other made a path."

Who is Nick Pappis and why is he saying nasty things about rock and roll? Pappis is a former music

producer from the southern U.S. who dropped his career for Christianity and a shot at saving the souls of rock ravaged students across North America.

Pappis' theology is easy to follow: sex, drugs and rock and roll lead to Satan, suicide and sorcery. Pappis also attacked abortion and homosexuality as Satanic tendencies.

The fundamentalist slant of Pappis' preachings illustrates the roots of the Marantha organization. Started 10 years ago in the southern U.S. Bible Belt after founder Bob Wiener had a vision from God, Marantha now has more than 60 American chapters and three in Canada.

The rock and roll seminar advertising was typical of Marantha events. A large picture of Jim Morrison was featured on a poster that

promised music, live concert footage and slides. A large headline proclaimed "No one here gets out alive," a line from the Doors' *Five to One* and the title of a Morrison biography. Only at the bottom of the poster in smaller print was Marantha mentioned. A smaller poster, similarly illustrated, failed to mention Marantha sponsorship at all.

The false advertising clearly was effective as it lured many unsuspecting rock and roll fans to the event. About 10 people left in the first five minutes and others rolled out during the two-hour presentation. More than a few people were unnerved by Pappis' repeated focus on Satan and cheerleading "amens" from the Marantha followers in attendance.

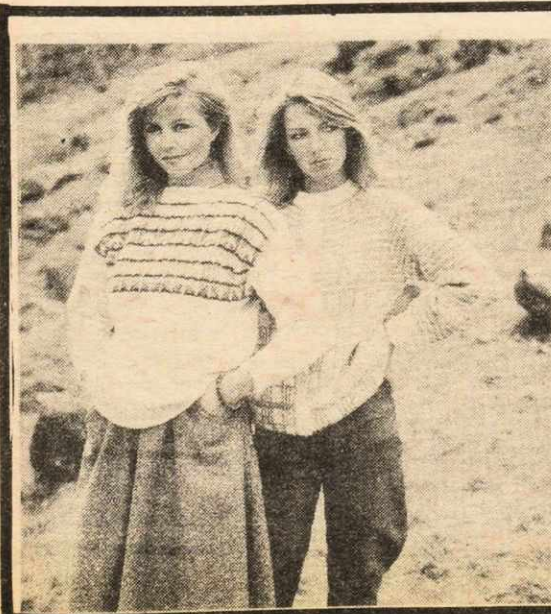
Pappis' method of delivery was fast, hard and non-stop. He spoke

loudly in gospel style, repeating words and phrases, though he stumbled occasionally.

He backed up his claims of Satanic messages on records with tape recordings of rock songs played backwards, but the sounds were unintelligible.

The Marantha approach has turned off more than just rock and rollers. George Hermanson, Lutheran United Church campus chaplain, says that for Marantha, the end of saving souls from eternal damnation justifies the means - whatever can be used to bring in new converts.

Hermanson said the ultra-fundamentalist group is run by an inner hierarchy which interprets the Bible in a particular way for the Marantha followers, rather than encouraging them to develop their own interpretations individually.



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