

# OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## A park that's the real thing

We set off, bound for The Green Cathedral. A long and difficult journey lay ahead.

Of mighty stone, The Green Cathedral rises only slightly above the surrounding cityscape, but unmistakable. Located in a warren of streets and alleys which have been built and aged in the long years since the cathedral first opened, it is difficult to find.

The first glimpse of the edifice is almost always benign. From its usual approaches, identifying markings are absent, and for the first-time visitor its quiet, hulking stoneworks are obscure.

On this pilgrimage however, we neared the brooding stone from a rarely considered aspect. Though starlight darkness covered the hallowed place, as we approached we could clearly see bold letters identifying it as the object of our travels. FENWAY PARK was spelled out on the upper level facade behind home plate, we had reached The Green Cathedral.

The next day, in the presence of west coast Angels, we entered the old brickyard. It radiated light, drawing people to it. And they came, a constant stream of pilgrims. Once inside, we wandered up the ramps, with our heads bowed in deference to the place and our desire for a heightened sense of wonder.

There is little in this world that compares to entering a stadium for the first time. The sense of awe, of wonder, and of joy in co-existing with that particular place and time is unmatched in any other human endeavor. Only the first time, as a child, that you enter a stadium, is comparable to entering The Green Cathedral. At the top of the ramp, raise your eyes, and you can't help but smile. A grin that almost brings tears.

The fabled dimensions, the Green Monster reaching 'half as high as the sky', and the Beantowners themselves. It all hits you at once. The hand operated scoreboard and the green, green grass. Real grass. Grass and dirt and brick. You've been there on television, but you've never experienced it.

Near me, sat an unbeliever, a novice. The

## REAUME WITH A VIEW

with BRAD REAUME



woman looked at me strangely when I extended five dollars in her direction. I had to tell her to pass it along toward the aisle. She hadn't seen the vendor toss me peanuts, so she said she hoped I got something for my money. She took extra All-Star ballots but needed an explanation of how to use them.

By the end of the game she was one of us. An unbeliever turned into one of the faithful. This woman, who began the rituals with confusion in her eyes, confusion almost bordering on fear, now rose with the crowd and sang 'Take Me Out To The Ball Game' while linking arms during the seventh inning stretch. She cheered loud and long with the rest of the faithful as Red Sox third baseman Wade Boggs eked out an infield hit in the eighth, his 2,000 career hit, all as a member of the Keepers of The Green Cathedral.

The City of Boston is unlike anywhere else. It is the link between our English historical roots and our North American home. It is a marvelous mixture of old and new, of history and of architecture. It has been called the Athens of America.

Boston has many major cultural institutions and a large number of major universities. It also supports three major sporting franchises. The basketball Celtics, Hockey Bruins and baseball Red Sox, all have deep histories, wide and fanatical support, and a mystique that transcends mere sport.

The Green Cathedral is one of those special places where hope, loyalty, desire and effort, coalesce into magic. Where the total experience of the place is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

## All is not even on a dog's playing field

"Maybe you should warn people of the dangers of rough-housing with their dogs." This from a lady whose husband had to go into the emergency department one night recently with one of his eyeballs the colour of a tomato.

His pain was increased by the knowledge that his injury was 100 per cent avoidable, and the realization that his wife would now be perfectly justified in saying "I told you so".

The canine "culprit" in this instance was not a huge monster but a miniature schnauzer of jolly temperament. His only crime was participating in a game of monkey-in-the-middle which was taking place on a couch.

In his enthusiasm to catch the ball, he threw his paws forward, one of them landing squarely on his master's eyeball. I have been spared a description of the ensuring colourful language and screams of pain. They may have been liberally interspersed with cries of "This is my own silly fault" but I would only be guessing.

The damage was not as severe as it looked. By the next day, there was no buildup of fluid behind the eye, nor was there a scratch on the eyeball itself. Even so, considerable healing time was required.

Had the dog in question been a German



## PETS AND YOU

with ANNE NORMAN

Shepherd or a Great Dane, well, one shudders to think of it.

Quite apart from scratches playfully inflicted, there is another very real risk when you "play rough" with your dog. Once you put yourself on the dog's level i.e. behave like a dog, you are asking to be treated like one as well.

The dog, particularly a male dog, may perceive the pack order to be temporarily suspended. What this means is that you are no longer the boss or pack leader; you and your dog are on equal footing.

Nevermind that he has four feet and you only have two (unless you count hands and knees as four), once you put yourself on his level you are at a disadvantage. Your teeth are not as big, for one thing, and you cannot move as rapidly as a dog.

Your dog will become very excited at the



## When behaviour affects attention

Attention deficit disorder (ADD) is the single most common and misused diagnosis in child psychology ... and in the schools, studies are finding that up to 20 per cent of school-aged children are being labelled as ADD.

What is an attention deficit disorder? First, the child will have difficulty attending for any length of time to difficult, boring or repetitive tasks. At home, parents' instructions may seem to "go in one ear and out the other". At school, unless he finds a teacher who makes arithmetic and spelling exciting, he will have a tough time mastering the material.

The problem is not really so much one of distractibility, as we used to think, but rather there appears to be a lack of persistence in attending and concentrating on tasks which aren't particularly interesting or don't have immediate consequences (i.e. can be solved quickly and easily, or else are important to him).

A second component of ADD is impulsivity — poor self-control; an inability to wait; not thinking through a problem before answering; constantly switching his attention to different toys, activities or people.

A problem (excess) of activity level is the third component of ADD. Problems in activity level are especially evident when structure or demands are placed on the child. Studies have found no differences in the activity levels of



## PSYCHOLOGY IN THE '90S

with DR. ARNOLD RINCOVER

ADD and other children during free play, but the ADD child has difficulty controlling his activity level, changing it, quieting or calming down during structured times.

Children with ADD usually have behaviour problems as well. In fact, some researchers argue that it is the disruptive behaviour that is most significant in ADD. A child who is unable to keep his hands to himself, talks too often and too loud, doesn't listen to his parents or teachers, or who runs off in different directions, will constantly come to the attention of teachers and parents. For this reason, some question whether there is any difference between behaviour problems and ADD.

Concerns about ADD usually occur between six and nine years of age. These are the early school years, when problems of attention become particularly evident — a child must now sit at a desk for an extended period, study or follow along in a book, stay at one activity and in one place for a while, share and take turns, and clean up after himself.

ADD occurs in 3-4 per cent of children, and it is much more common in boys than girls, by a factor of 6:1.

What does the future hold? Studies have shown that six and seven year olds with ADD tend to have attentional deficits through middle childhood and adolescence; only 25 per cent of these children "grow out of it" in later years.

These children do not fair well during the adolescent years — they typically do poorly at school, appear to lack some of the basic social skills needed to be accepted by peers, and are more often considered to be aggressive and annoying.

Attention deficits also have an impact at home. ADD children have been found to be less compliant and cooperative, more negative, and less able to sustain an activity (eg. making the bed, putting away toys, listening to a story, staying in one place). As a result, their mothers tend to be more demanding, more negative (they get mad), less rewarding and praising (they focus on problems), and less responsive than mothers of other children. Moreover, there are more conflicts in families of ADD children than in other families.

The future is not promising for ADD children if they are left to "grow out of it". If he treated (properly), however, much or all of these negative effects can be prevented, as we'll see next week.