

OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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We can count on the queen

There is something about a 1,000 year monarchy that you just have to like. In our rapidly changing world, traditions of nations, of a people, are sometimes all we have to believe.

The reigning monarch of the realm is a potent symbol of the sum of the parts that make our nation great. For nation we are, despite our far flung geography, all those who speak English, who are ruled by common law, and whose governmental structure is derived from the Magna Carta, are one people.

In fact we are the sons of ancient Greece and Rome, poured through the sieve of northern Europe and left to our own devices on a remote cluster of islands, where our forefathers forged a great civilization. That civilization didn't begin to achieve greatness until a king stepped forth to lead the people, to improve their quality of life.

I am unabashedly a monarchist. Though I believe in tempering the divine right of kings with a constitution, the rule of law and basic democratic institutions, I feel strongly that republicanism is a mistake.

The House of Windsor is the present day tip of our history, a history that will one day regard Queen Elizabeth II as perhaps the only rival in success of her namesake.

Queen Elizabeth I ruled England from 1558-1603 and brought that small nation into a position of world domination. Our present Queen, has ruled a nation that has fallen back from world domination to a position of great moral influence and leadership. It is an achievement that history will remember, through the accomplishments of parliamentarians and the ruling monarch.

Republicanism forces the population to rally around their creation. Regional concerns have a tendency to sink republics, because the regional players have, by nature, a nationalist outlook. These forces tend to get an upper hand and republics fade. Yugoslavia is a dramatic example.

The only tried and true, long term solution to the organization of human existence is

Life can be a gas for dogs - your nose knows

It's a fact of life. You can't see it, yet it's there, and you never know when it will rear its ugly head. So to speak. Yes, we're talking about gas. The methane variety produced by living creatures, the expulsion of which often causes rooms, even houses, to be temporarily evacuated.

Convenient as it may be for small children, who indignantly insist "It wasn't me; it must have been the dog," animal gas (and this is not a rock band) can be a problem.

Before we ponder the possible causes, let's examine some of the more interesting scenarios involving spontaneous emissions.

Centuries ago, when I was a child, one of the family dogs was a rather portly, red Doberman Pinscher. My mother had a blind spot where this dog was concerned, even to the extent of making my sister and I sit in the back seat of the car, because, as she patiently explained, "Bubba is used to sitting in the front with me."

Was it our imagination, or did the dog narrow its wicked eyes and laugh at us? We could never be sure, and the dog's temperament was changeable. Certainly, no one argued with my mother when she sat in her recliner, dog at her side, and said, "Isn't Bubba a lovely dog?"

Lovely Bubba would place her paw on my mother's leg, hoping fervently to be given a cream-filled doughnut. Generally, she had

REAUME WITH A VIEW

with BRAD REAUME



nationalism, where a band of people with the same culture, values, history and origin govern themselves for their greater good. The unification of Italy and Germany as nation-states in the 1800s are examples of nation growth and general stability.

Problems exist between nations when borders are unstable. Generally, Europe, as a collection of nation-states is a very stable place, thanks to mountains and rivers which provide natural borders. Where borders are ill-defined problems have flared into violence. Recognizing the inability of disparate people to agree on the organization of their lives, it only makes sense to band together with those who do agree because of their background.

Is it surprising that the most stable states, such as Sweden, Britain and The Netherlands, are those with monarchs. The monarch is an embodiment of those most stable nations and usually a simultaneous head of state. Our truth, and difficulty, is that we are colonial, and being removed from the centre of our history, it becomes harder to see and hold.

Remember, Canada has only been settled by Europeans for little more than 350 years. And only for the last 125 years have we organized our own affairs under that banner. We are a very long way from developing our own society, a society that would be different enough to justify a break with the 1,000 year old monarchy that is our heritage.

Since that day will not occur in my lifetime I will happily live under the rule of Queen Elizabeth II and her heirs. They embody my birthright, the glory that is Britain, and head the family of our commonwealth.

PETS AND YOU

with ANNE NORMAN



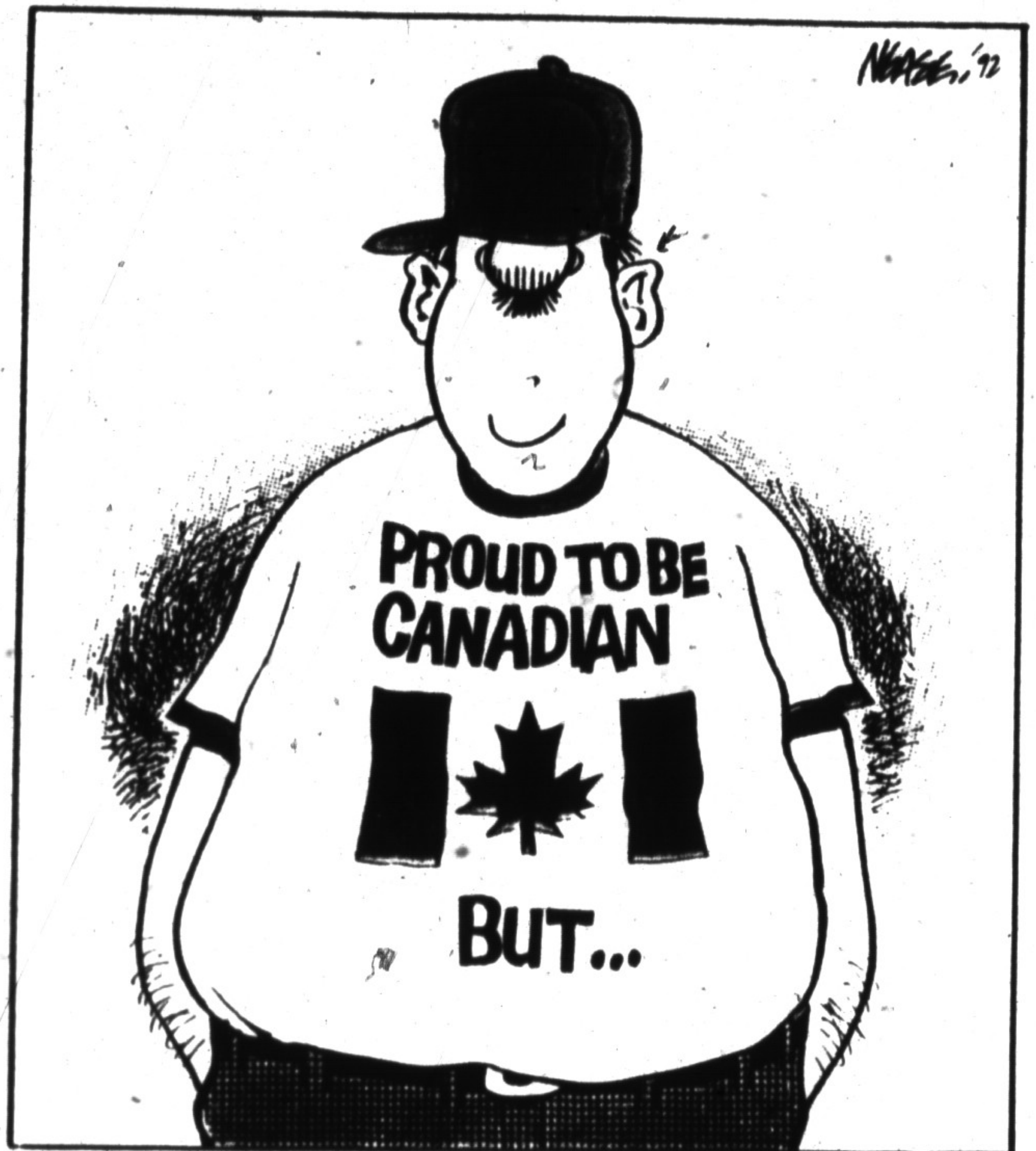
good success — mother was a pushover where sad dog eyes were concerned.

The upshot of all this junk food consumption was that Bubba, well, she tended to, let's face it, the dog passed gas. Frequently, and often with great sighs of satisfaction.

To say that the air turned blue on these occasions would be to totally under-describe the scene and the atmosphere.

I don't know why it is but short-coated dogs seem to be more prone to flatulence than others. Maybe Bubba was even shorter-coated than other dogs of her breed. I doubt it, though, she was just overweight, and loaded with junk food.

One of my strongest memories is that of my father leaping from his comfortable chair by the fireplace, grabbing a section of newspaper and a match as he did so. "There she blows!" he would exclaim, lighting the end of the rolled up newspaper, and waving it around as



Kids need a friend indeed

At 10-12 years of age, friendships go through some fairly dramatic changes. Many children live and die for what their friends think. They misperceive things and misinterpret them, often thinking the worst.

Differences (physical or mental) between children are noticed, and may be the source of teasing. How children learn to cope with all of this will play a major role in their future happiness and adjustment.

Parents have an important role to play. Talking with our children, building them up, trying to make them feel good about themselves, is important of course, but it often isn't enough. If our child is having trouble making or keeping friends (no matter whether it's their fault or not), we've got to take some extra steps.

One successful strategy is to find other children who do have things in common with your child. If your child is smart, then perhaps she would enjoy taking an "enrichment class" or a class for gifted children, where she would be among children she has a lot in common with, even if it's only for an hour or two per week.

Instead of trying to hide her special abilities, she would see other children with similar abilities, nice children, and she would be challenged and excited more by the work than she ever was before.

though to ward off evil spirits. He felt that this was a good way to burn off the methane, and it's true that, for a while afterwards, the only distinguishable odour would be that of burning newspaper. Of course, we were a rather strange family. Strangers, on witnessing this odd exorcism, had been seen to edge carefully towards the door, never to be seen again.

In a more inhibited family, or in the case of a guest's presence causing everyone to be on his or her best behaviour, it's possible that a noxious eruption may be pointedly ignored. Everyone looks at everyone else, wondering who did it and why that person doesn't seek the aid of a doctor immediately, while the dog (guilty 100 per cent) slumbers peacefully behind the couch.

Until someone thinks to say, "My god, there's been huge sewage explosions and gas masks are being issued! Every man for himself!" or something equally witty, a very loud and uncomfortable silence will reign.

Really, all that's required is a simple, "Get that dog outside before we all lose our noses" but, in moments of stress, tongues can become tied.

Only feed your dog the highest quality dog food. Don't overfeed, and don't give him table scraps and junk food. Have a little respect for his health. The nose you save may be your own.



PSYCHOLOGY IN THE '90S

with DR. ARNOLD RINCOVER

Importantly, she would have a much greater chance of making friends, because these are children she has something in common with.

No matter what a child is being teased about, whether he's smart, uncoordinated, or has a different colour skin, there are groups of children he can meet who have interests in common. If the child is teased or rejected because of these (or other) characteristics, then a parent should find a peer group that includes those characteristics, so the child has a better chance to make and keep friends. Then the parent should ask the child who he likes best, get their phone numbers, and invite them over. In this way, the child can get to know them better, one-on-one, and there is a good chance that he will make (and keep) new friends.

Sometimes the problem isn't being teased or rejected, but the problem is in our own kids. They may always think the worst, misinterpret things that peers say or do. In this case, they need to learn "Reality Testing" — how to see if their perceptions are really true or not.

She can ask Janet if she wants to come over tomorrow — if Janet really doesn't like her, she won't come. She can ask a friend if the girls were talking about her at the party. She can ask Stephanie why she went to Rebecca's house instead of coming to her house.

There are always ways to find out if a child's perceptions are true, instead of just sitting and stewing, worrying, and thinking the worst. And parents can help a child to develop ways to test her perceptions.

The school has a part to play, too. Many schools are starting programs to help these children. For example, some run group sessions where kids talk about what happened that day or that week, asking children why they teased, how they would feel if they were teased, if they think it's fair, why some went along when they knew it was wrong.

They role-play what it is like to be teased and ganged up on. They talk about why they teased, and what are other ways to deal with their feelings.

They talk about things all the children have in common, and things they might like to do together. They talk about the "right" thing to do the next time a child is teased, and they role play doing the right thing.

Sometimes these sessions are run by older children (eg. eight, ninth, or tenth-graders) who the children naturally look up to, which has often proven quite successful.