

OPINION

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Game's not black and white

Holy cow, Cito's black!

This was a major revelation when the Blue Jays made it to the World Series and Cito was "discovered" by the US media. How could we have missed it?

I was involved in at least 100 conversations where Cito's managerial skills were questioned. Some people, myself included, were not always polite in describing his abilities but not once can I recall anyone mentioning he is black.

Could it be that we were only looking at the man? All I know of him is he was a reasonably successful player who then moved into the coaching ranks of baseball. He worked hard, paid his dues and because of his skills was promoted to lead a major league team.

Although he's in an exciting job, his career path is no different than many others, regardless of skin colour. I'm sure he had his share of trials and tribulations but I don't believe he got the job because of minority job placement legislation.

There are people of every race who do their jobs quietly and lead by example who seldom get recognition.

Why do the loudest and most offensive get the most press?

Does Cito's example epitomize Canada's goal of racial equality?

If Dudley Laws had a real job and treated the laws of our nation with respect, maybe even he could lead by example.

When you think of Robbie Alomar, Dave Winfield and Joe Carter, are you thinking black? I'm thinking — "great ball player — what an inspiration" and "hit a home run".

Maybe Dudley Laws is being the best he can be and the fault lies with the recruiters.

Let's put Pat Gillick in charge of our immigration department since his policies seem to be directed toward the team approach we need in this country. Good examples don't come cheaply but I'd rather pay for quality than subsidized housing, welfare fraud and bench sitters who don't pull their load.



VIEW POINT

with PATRICK KELLY

Although good examples like Sprague and Griffin have a roll to play.

Nuts — Sprague's white. But I guess we can import them too if we need them for the future.

Is there anything else we can learn from baseball? Why haven't any of the players, become Canadians? We can certainly accept their love for their native countries but many Americans have moved to Canada and vice-versa, after comparing personal benefits. The number one negative has been Canada's high taxes. Racial equality under the law is fairly close in both countries but racial harmony has generally been better in Canada.

Most Canadians assumed our immigration recruiters would seek players with similar expectations and work ethics to our own. We expected ethnic diversity with cultural and religious harmony.

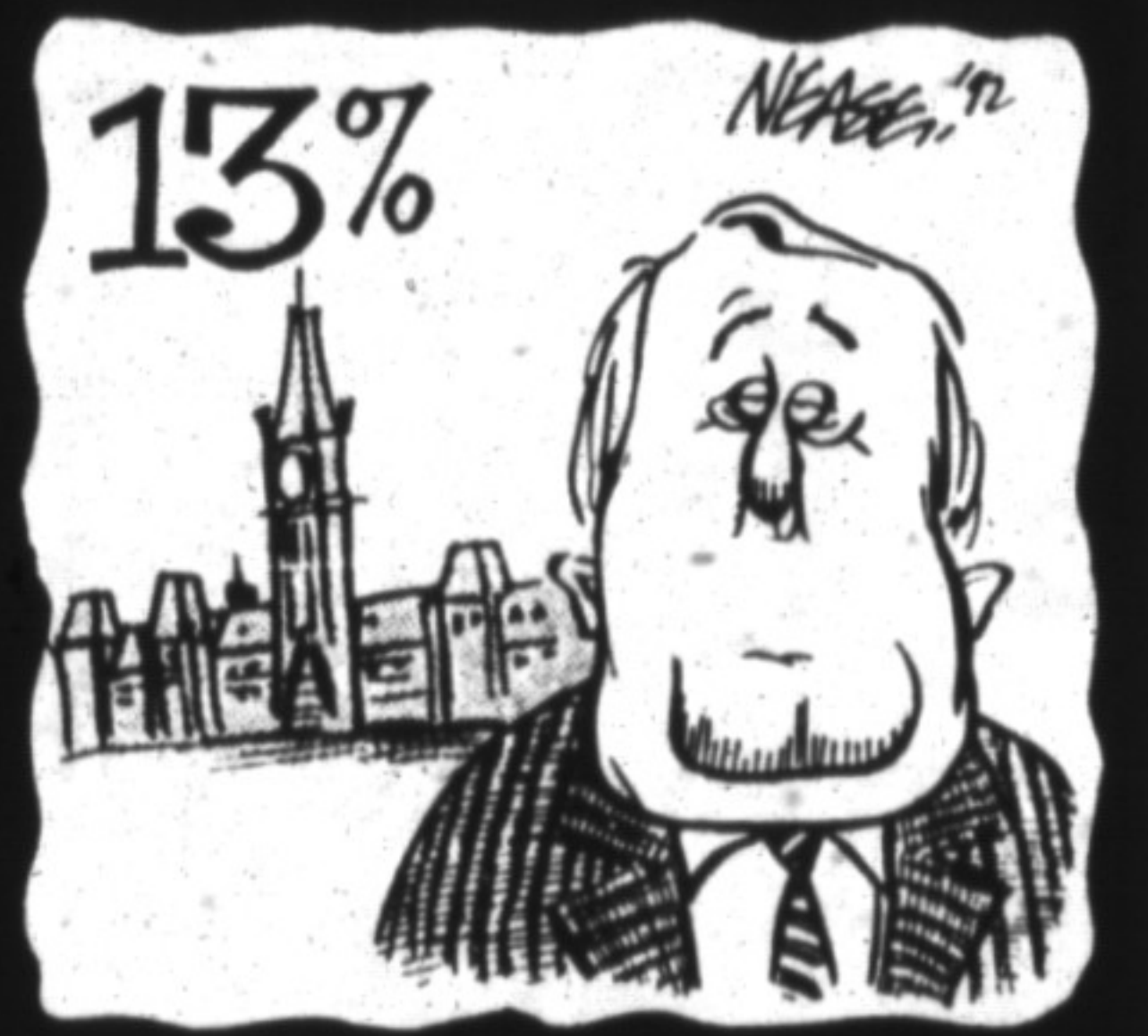
What we have are cricket players, insisting we change the baseball rules to suit their game and the coaches and managers (our government) telling us we have to make the changes. It's similar to the difficulty hockey is having in getting accepted in the American market. The difference is hockey is having to pay its own dues in getting acceptance by proving its value and not by legislating the game into equality with the rest of the sports.

Why are we having to legislate equality into the minds of our citizens when we learned all the lessons of fair play in our sandboxes as children?

I'm going to take my ball and go home.

HALLOWEEN POLL

WHAT DO CANADIANS BELIEVE IN?



Gift season has its lessons

The holiday season is a tough time for many families. Many people have lost their jobs, and those that have jobs are wondering if they're next.

Many people either don't have the money to spend, are trying to pay down their debts, or they want to hold onto any savings in case things get worse. And yet, here come the kids, asking for Air Jordan runners, a pretty (expensive) dress, or a new Nintendo game at \$70 a crack.

It can be a stressful time for parents. Kids look forward to the Christmas season, they expect presents, and we have always tried to give them what they wanted. Kids will have a hard time understanding why they should do without this year, since they got the Nintendo game last year. You don't want your child to open his present and be disappointed. You don't want to feel like you've failed in providing for your child.

As tough as it is, there is a silver lining. Children should learn that they can't have everything they want. There are limits, there always have been, and those limits will change. This is just the first time the children have bumped into those limits. It is therefore a time to teach.



PSYCHOLOGY IN THE '90S

with DR. ARNOLD RINCOVER

The holiday season is as good a time as any to teach it. I have talked with many school children, and it's incredible how many don't think there is any limit on what they can ask for. They don't understand the concepts of money, limits, or work, and the relationship between them. They just think that things appear, mom and dad get stuff at the store any time they need to.

Of course we don't want an eight year old to be worried about money or mortgages, or feeling guilty if he gets a present. But we should explain why we did get a Nintendo game last year, and we can't this year. If we limit our discussion to the Nintendo game, and not put the weight of our problems on his back, he can understand it without giving him our burdens.

We've got to tell the truth. If we do, something very good can come out of it. We've got to explain that there is only one pot, and if we spend so much money for this, we won't have money for something (or someone) else. If we buy you this, who should do without something else? Is it fair?

It can help to give our kids a perspective. They need to be reminded about what's really important in life and in friendship — and fancy runners are pretty far down the list.

We need to explain that there will always be people who have more, and our goal in life is not to keep up with the Jones. They should understand that many children have much less, and it is time to take stock and list all the good things they can be thankful for.

Children won't take to all this explanation the first time around. They're not going to say, "OK, dad, now I understand"; they're still going to be unhappy about it. But the explanation will be better accepted if we find a middle ground. After all, we don't want our kids to do without entirely.

We can give our kids what they want, but in smaller doses, over longer periods of time.

First, he can give up something else of equal value — if he wants the fancy shirt, he has to make do with second-hand pants. We can give him some money toward the game, and let him earn the rest over a period of time. He can work part-time, even if it's mowing the neighbour's lawns, pulling weeds, or delivering newspapers. If he's too young to work, then he can earn it in other ways, from improving his schoolwork to doing extra chores around the house for a period of time.

Wanted: Kitty-sitter with time commitment

Looking after someone else's pet is a big responsibility. If you're comfortable with animals, know the animal in question, and understand completely what you're getting into, then carry on with the project, by all means. If you're not, think carefully before you start. You may be volunteering for a term in "How to Produce Maximum Stress in Minimum Time".

To simplify things, let's concentrate on cats for this column; we'll do dogs, then maybe even rodents and birds, another time.

Cats are fairly easy to care for in their own homes. I personally, would never look after a cat that goes outside; not just because I feel that it's wrong but I break out in a cold sweat just thinking about the anxiety I'd have if the cat were to be injured, or to disappear, while in my care. Gak! Too horrible to contemplate.

The cat is an animal who likes everything in his life to be unchanged. "Please feed me at the same times every day, allow me to nap at my usual times in my usual places, keep my litter box immaculate, and play with me whenever I feel like playing." Selfish? Well, I guess so, though I know a number of people who feel life should be that way for them (except for the litter box part).

If you will be merely going over to the house (as opposed to staying in it and eating all the food), it's better to make two trips a day than



PETS AND YOU

with ANNE NORMAN

just one, and to spend an absolute minimum of 15 minutes per visit.

With only one trip per day, you really should spend at least half an hour. Just flip on the television, make yourself a cup of tea, and generally make your presence felt while you talk to the cat and carry out maintenance chores.

Where there are two cats, you'll find that they keep each other company, and you won't feel quite as guilty leaving them as they gaze after you reproachfully.

One cat is pretty darn lonely, and shame on you if you don't at least sit down and read or watch TV for a while so the cat can curl up with you or invite you to play. Why not make some popcorn and watch a movie? You do have some responsibility for the poor

creature's welfare; you offered to babysit, right? (You may have noticed that the food part of all this has a real drawing power to me.)

When you offer to take someone's cat into your own home, there are a few things to consider. First, do you have your own cat? If so, a war of epic proportions is quite likely to take place before your very eyes. Putting aside, for a second, the pain and trauma of the combatants and the effect on your own jangled nerves; think of the unnecessary trip to the vet for first aid.

Dogs and cats are not natural friends, and who knows which one will emerge victorious should you suddenly introduce a new cat into your household. I admit these are worst case scenarios but, believe me, I've seen these things happen. I've also heard "I thought they'd just work it out and get along fine." It ain't necessarily so.

Stress to the cat, when having to come into a strange environment, may cause shyness, fear, and/or a change in litter box habits. This is no picnic, particularly for the weak of stomach.

So, help a friend have a worry-free holiday, it's good of you to look after such an important thing. Just make sure that you're prepared to put in some time to keep his or her feline companion in top mental and physical shape for the duration.