

What happened to the Grey Cup?

By Nicholas Stewart

One method we Canadians frequently use to define ourselves to be Canadian is to emphasize the fact that we are not Americans. Yet little do some of us know it, but we are becoming increasingly

'Americanized' it seems almost each and every day. Indeed, we all say that we are not American, but if we were told that to maintain our Canadian identity we would have to lose our American entertainment, primarily their popular movies, television, music, etc.,

many would be very reluctant to give up this American culture from their daily lives. This topic could be discussed forever, but I would like to focus on a single example. What has happened to the Grey Cup?

Hopefully most of you knew that on Sunday the Edmonton Eskimos and Montreal Alouettes squared off on Sunday for the Grey Cup. This event is a fixture in Canada, as the game remains one of the highest watched television programs in Canada. That may all seem well and good, but what ever happened to the celebrations here on Prince Edward Island that went along with the game. My father actually broke his collar-bone in one of his friends' annual 'Grey Cup' game, played a few hours before the actual Grey Cup Classic. These pickup games are no longer commonplace as they were a few decades ago. In addition, there were many parties held before the games in houses of every community. There were always a few people in front of the television screen at my family home watching the game, but last year I was alone as I watched my revered Edmonton Eskimos go down to a crushing defeat to Montreal in the big game. (Hopefully this was reversed on Sunday.) Only a few short years ago, if one wanted to watch football, the CFL was the only option as people had the simple choice of two television channels throughout much of rural P.E.I.. Now that has changed with the rise of the Satellite Dish and also for those of without, the addition of Global Television increasing the basic two

channels to three. On Global programming, American Football is showcased every week of the NFL season, thus challenging the CFL for viewers.

Locally, it appears that the gatherings for the big football game once a year do not happen in November anymore. Instead, it happens in January as people gather to watch the Super Bowl. I have not heard of a Grey Cup Party this year around campus, but in January I was well aware of a couple of parties on campus planning to watch the Super Bowl. In the provincial newspaper, sports columnist Fred MacDonald proudly boasts about his famous NFL playoff predictions record, but I haven't seen any talk of the CFL playoffs in his column thus far this month (by Friday Nov 14). I expect he would have written something in Saturday's issue, but even in the case he does, he still focused solely on the Championship Game, not the entire playoffs as he does with the NFL. It appears that a truly Canadian sports tradition is dying here on PEI.

Some will question the significance of choosing to celebrate the Super Bowl instead of the Grey Cup. The answer is that this is just another example of the disturbing trend which has Canadians opting into American culture at the expense of our Canadian culture. If we continue to adopt these increasing amounts of American culture while abandoning our Canadian culture, we may be destined to simply become Americans living north of the border.

BAR WARS V

The Legend Lives On...

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away . . .

Get ready! The UPEI Faculty of Science will be holding the fifth annual pub crawl, BAR WARS V, on **November 21, 2003**. This is the largest pub crawl of the year, and anyone is welcome to participate!

What we'll bring you is:

- A great line up of bars: The Wave, Myron's, Melon's, Checkers, and the Sportspage
- Transportation to Myron's from the Wave
- Free cover, drink specials, trivia, games, and prizes
- An authentic BAR WARS t-shirt
- A great time!!

What you need to bring:

- \$15, which includes the t-shirt, transportation and all the great specials
- Some food items that will be donated to the Food Bank

That's right folks, we're taking donations to the food bank this year! So what food items can you donate? Anything nonperishable, which has not been opened. Some examples are:

Stuff for kid's lunches, boxes of cereal, granola bars, cereal bars, packages of pudding, cake mixes, KD, cheese and crackers, anything canned, and anything from the middle aisles of the grocery store that could sit in your cupboard.

Now get out to your department, and sign up! Bring your friends along for a cheap night of fun! To get your t-shirt and drop off your food donations, come up to the KCI Student Lounge (room 200) in the KCI chemistry building, between 12:30 and 4 on Friday, Nov. 21. If you can't make it then, make sure you get a friend to pick up your shirt, as its *first come, first serve*.

May the force be with you!

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