

By Marko Peric

Canadian Symbols

As you're probably all aware of by now, Canada is getting a new two dollar coin. I suppose it is possible that you have not heard this, seeing how the Canadian government's publicity department is busy making commercials to promote Canadian unity. One has to wonder just how many votes can be bought in Quebec through this tactic, but that's another topic.

So far, the new coin is getting mixed reviews, much like the loonie did almost a decade ago. Sceptics claim it will weigh down our wallets and wear holes through purses and pockets, but they said the same about the loonie. This writer cannot speak for anyone else, but my wallet is holding up rather well. In fact, it's the billfold part that is going to pieces on me (not that my wallet is flush, but I keep notes, phone numbers and ABM slips in there, too).

Perhaps fewer bills would be wel-

come. In Western Canada, no one uses two dollar bills now, so they will not even notice the change. In Atlantic Canada, however, where even the five is considered a big bill, the appearance of two dollar coins will be a major event. Where ever will they go in the cash registers?

Apparently the new coin will feature a polar bear on the 'tails' side. This is a powerful Canadian symbol, or so the government would have us believe. The local radio report pointed out that the polar bear is a strong, independent creature. This must raise the question -- is Canada strong and independent? We'd like to think so.

The polar bear is also one of the world's largest and most aggressive land predators. As well, it is an effective and deadly nautical hunter. Comparisons with the Canadian armed forces are readily drawn.

Perhaps the polar bear would make a good new Canadian animal symbol. Other nations have significant and remarkable creatures to associate with -- America's eagle, Britain's lion, Russia's bear. We have the beaver and the loon. Try to restrain your enthusiasm. Sure, beavers are hard-working. They are also rather odd-looking and tend to build dams in very inconvenient places. Loons are associated with insanity, and make disturbingly haunting noises. Maybe they are good Canadian symbols after all.

The polar bear, however, is a symbol that we can be proud of. It's strong, it's free, and it is not actively hunted by other predatory creatures (with the exception of mankind). What's more, most Canadians can relate well to the polar bear. It lives comfortably in one of the coldest climates on earth.

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CONTEST RESULTS:

We at the newspaper would like to thank the students of UPEI for their overwhelming response to our "name the paper" request. We sifted through the entries. We pondered. We argued. We picked names out of a hat. Winner of the name contest is obviously *Panther Prints*, originated by Patricia Cousins. Patricia can come by the office to pick up her lovely prizes. Honourary mentions go to *Up Front* by Sally Shea and *The Panther Post* by Shanna Craswell. You can also come by the office to receive your prizes.

NOTICE:

Letters to the editor will be accepted according to regular submission guidelines. Such letters do not necessarily represent the views of the newspaper, or the Student Union. All letters must contain the author's name and phone number for legal reasons. We will respect writer's wishes to withhold their names from print. For this reason, we cannot print the letter received via e-mail from "anonymous." If the author will send us their name for our records, we will run the letter as previously written.

The Panther Prints is the official newspaper of the University of Prince Edward Island. It is published ten times per semester. 2500 copies are distributed both on and off campus on Tuesdays. The Panther Prints is a member of the Canadian University Press (CUP).

Anyone may submit to this newspaper, but please note the following:

- For legal reasons, all submissions must contain a name and phone number. Names will be withheld upon request.
- All submissions are property of the Panther Prints.
- Submissions may be dropped off at the newspaper office (room 06 Main) Mail at your own risk. Submissions are processed more quickly if submitted on disc in Wordperfect 5.1 format. Discs may be picked up on the following Monday. Discs left for one year become the property of the Panther Prints.
- The deadline for submissions is Thursday at 4:00 without exception. Any late submissions will be considered for the following issue.
- The editors reserve the right to reject or edit any submissions. Submissions deemed to be racist, sexist, homophobic, or libelous will not be printed.
- The opinions expressed in this newspaper may be offensive to some readers. Discretion is advised.

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