

# RIGHT outta LEFT FIELD

by J. Jones

This week -- National debates, part one

You've gotta love a country like Canada. Second largest nation in the world, universal health care, staggering taxes, dominated by an ever-present elephant to the South. Canadians are assured by a certain blowhard that "we produce the best hockey players in the world -- bar none!" Okay then, why does Lemieux, Gretzky, Lindros, Messier, and umpteen-dozen other Canadian stars play south of the border? We are also reconciled by beer commercials saying "I am" Canadian. (Hmm.... wasn't that company sold to a certain European brewery? Curiouser and curiouser....) Maybe that's why their slogan reads only "I am." Canadians have always had trouble defining ourselves, and I doubt that beer commercials will aid our self-image.

I think the best (not to mention safest and easiest) way to avoid this problem is define ourselves by what we are not, namely, Americans. Oh, sure, to a passive observer Canadians are nothing but a "northern" version of Americans (somehow forgetting Alaska). Or, as a Canadian stand-up comedian stated, "A Canadian is an unarmed American with health insurance."

What separates Canadians from Americans? A deep question indeed. My simplest answer: sports. Curling doesn't seem to be a big draw in the USA, and Canada still can't quite get the hang of professional bowling. Aside from sports, "eh-ing," and a few AK-47's, we're similar. Of course, we are individuals-- I think of Canada and the US as an experiment in nature-watching: one species is larger than the other, one is faster, one is more pleasant in temperament -- but they can intermarry.

Yet, Canadians are happy, or so say the pollsters. A Gallup poll, published in the July 17 1995 issue of *MacLean's*, says that only 11% of Canadians are "discontent with their lives." That's third in the world, behind only those giddy Icelanders and grinning Germans -- these pollsters obviously haven't polled the province of Quebec.

Here's a question: if Charlottetown is called "the Cradle of Confederation," would that make Quebec City the "Coffin of Canada?" That is, of course, assuming that Quebecers decide to withdraw from Confederation and give a kick at the independence can. By the way, has anyone

actually read the official question? No, a more important query is does anyone understand the question? After having survived twelve years of French Immersion through public school, I think I can do an adequate translation for those who need it:

Doest thou, after not not having not not decided to rethink and peruse the unofficial constitutional offer offered by that "other country;" decide that it shall go to pot, and do you think that Quebec, after having rethought it options, should decide, when it fits the purpose and suits us to do so, should cut the strings ever-so-slightly from Canada, in accordance with the law that states "We shall not not not separate or become a distinct society," and if so, do you think it's a good idea? Yes or No?

C'mon Jacques. Surely you have some confidence in your population's decision making process, don't you? Otherwise, why would you bamboozle and confuse the populace so? Show the population of Canada that at least you think that the "Oui" side can win in the referendum. In the event that Quebec does decide to sever ties to Ottawa, I believe PEI should hold a referendum on the same subject of separation.

Think of it... an island nation to rival those tourist destinations as Cuba and the Bahamas. We could install Anne as our head of state; require all Islanders to speak good "Ilan English," so that we can have our own special language; we could even put what we want to see on our two-dollar coin -- heads: Stompin' Tom; tails: a good ol' sack of potatoes.

This by no means exhausts the topic of Canada, Quebec, and the 'States. I just want to edge ever-so-slightly into the (dreaded) constitutional debate that will decide this nation's future. Until next time, UPEI, remember-- only those who remember history aren't allowed to repeat it.

Can You Read?

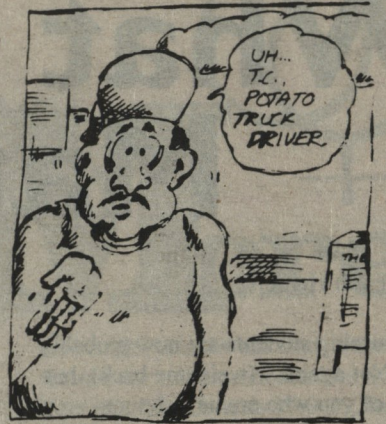
Can You Write?

Can You Spel?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then we want you! Join the *Panther Prints*.

## MAGNUM P.E.I.

PART TWO --  
"THE BIT AFTER THE FIRST BIT"  
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY  
STEVEN LATEGAN



THE NEXT: THE BIT BEFORE THE FOURTH BIT

## Back To School Specials

- 8 MB RAM
- 530 MB HARD DRIVE
- 1 MB PCI SVGA
- 3.5" FLOPPY DRIVE
- QUAD SPEED CD-ROM
- 16 BIT SOUND CARD
- 101 ENHANCED KEYBOARD
- 14" SVGA 28 NON INTERLACED MONITOR
- 14.4 Kbps VOICE/FAX/DATA MODEM
- DUAL AMPLIFIED SPEAKERS
- MICROSOFT J MOUSE
- 4X BONES 1.44 PREFORMATED DISKS
- ENCARTA 95 ENCYCLOPEDIA
- MICROSOFT MONEY
- MICROSOFT WORDS
- MS DANGEROUS CREATURES
- MICROSOFT GOLF
- CD SAMPLER
- \*WINDOWS 95
- \*MS SCENES
- \*MS ENTERTAINMENT PACK
- \*LETS LEARN CD SOFTWARE

COMPUTER

3 Year Warranty  
Serviced Right Here

IPC DX4 100	\$2099.00
IPC P75	\$2448.00
IPC P90	\$2598.00
IPC P100	\$2849.00

## Build Your Own MultiMedia COMPUTER

- 486 DX2 66 (IBM Blue Lightning)
- 14 IN Non Interlaced .28DP monitor
- 4 MB RAM
- 530 MB Harddrive, 3.5" disk Drive
- IDE I/O Controller
- 1 MB VLB Video Card
- Double Spin CD-ROM Drive
- 16 Bit Soundcard & Speakers
- 101 Keyboard & mouse
- Mini tower OR desktop case

# \$1349.00