

SHOWBIZ

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Canuck yuks!

Comedians tickle Canada's funnybone

By JIM SLOTEK
Toronto Sun

So how funny are Canadians? It depends.

On one hand, we have a tradition of great sketch comedy: Wayne & Shuster, Hart & Lorne, Royal Canadian Air Farce, SCTV, most of the original *Saturday Night Live*; and comics: David Steinberg, Howie Mandel, Jim Carrey, Rich Little et al.

On the other, there is our tradition of fair-to-awful Canadian sitcoms - *The Trouble With Tracy*, *Hangin' In*, *Not My Department*, *Check It Out*, *Mosquito Lake*.

And, of course, the letters-page editor of any U.S. or British publication will tell you Canadians have no sense of humor if



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they're the butt of a joke or perceived slight.

So, on the heels of last week's People's Comedy Fest - and just to show that we, as a nation, can take it - we decided to subject our readers to a feast of "Canadian jokes" from our archives and celebrity sources.

> **BILL COSBY:** (on the difference between the CFL and the NFL) "As near as I can tell, in Canada, the fast black guys throw the ball and the slow white guys run out and catch it."

> "Did you know that Canadian football actually has four downs, just like American football? It's true! Canadians prefer to punt on third down - just to be safe." SCTV, *It's A Canadian Fact!* (Courtesy Joe

Bodolai).

> **LARRY HOROWITZ:** "I think our inferiority complex stems from the fact that Canada is pink on all the maps. Why is this? Maybe we're just blushing."

> "My Canada Includes Florida" (Bumper sticker).

> **DAVE BROADFOOT:** "All across Canada, they have different ways of greeting you. In Newfoundland it's 'Where ya to, my son?' In Quebec it's 'Comment ca va, mon vieux?' In Vancouver, it's 'It isn't always like this. You should have been here last week.'"

> **GLEN FOSTER:** "It's so hard to get Canadians mad. You could tax them 99% and they'd say 'They better not tax us 100% boy, cuz then there'll be a revolt! Well ... not me, I gotta go to work ... but my friends, they'll revolt. I'll join them later. We can't all revolt at once. There'd be anarchy.'"

> **RICH HALL:** "Canadian drivers are more polite if you cut them off. Americans roll down their window and yell 'You a---!' But Canadians put it in the form of a question. 'What're you - an a---?!'"

> **FRANK SHUSTER:** (Talking about Wayne & Shuster). "Early in our career we became so popular in the U.S., even *Canadians* started to watch us."

> "How can you tell if your fridge has been raided by a Canadian? There's a fresh quart of milk in it." *National Lampoon*, 1979.

> **MARK BRESLIN:** "The typical Canadian wakes up in the morning, shuts off his Japanese clock radio, gets in his German car, drives to his office - a branch plant of an EEC multinational - dines out on Indian cuisine, goes home and watches American sitcoms until he falls asleep dreaming of moose, mounties and maple syrup."

> And our own all-time personal favorite Canadian joke: "How do you empty a poolful of Canadians? Yell Everybody out of the pool!"



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FOOTBALL FUNNIES ... Bill Cosby takes a tilt at the CFL vs. the NFL