Alberta's Wealth and oil can also grease wheels

MUGWUMP

by Greg LeBlanc

Hello and welcome to this, the first issue of the Bruns for 2005-06. My name is Greg LeBlanc and I am the new Managing Editor for this fine student paper. As an enjoyable aspect of my job, I get to write the Mugwump each week.

Though I've been reading the Bruns for almost seven years now, and contributing almost as long, I have never had an explanation of the word Mugwump, so here it goes:

According to my Webster's dictionary:

Mug·wump n 1. a Republican who refused to support the party nominee, James G. Blaine, in the presidential campaign of 1884 [Blaine actually lost the campaign to Grover Cleveland, US president 1885-89, 1893-97.] 2. a person who takes an independent position.

Therefore, the intent of this weekly column is to sit back and take a poke at the latest rabble that is hitting the press.

Yup, Alberta is stinking rich, and with oil prices rising, it's only gonna get better for them. It isn't their fault, though, they just happen to be sitting on one of the largest oil reserves in the world. And with their recent celebration of turning 100, what better way to feel good about their age than to sit on a pile of money as high as the Rockies?

Though I'm admittedly a little jealous (cause who wouldn't be, really?), I'm also proud of them. After all, they got the shaft 25 years ago because of a little Ottawa greed over the National Energy Program. Albertans reportedly lost $80B, thousands of jobs and a lot of respect for the national office. It's about time that they are now able to make that money back.

What I'm really concerned about is all the tripe bickering going on between the provinces (especially Ontario) and the feds over that $7B surplus. Here are my points:

First, it's their oil and therefore their surplus. Period.

Second, they already give us tons of cash in equalization payments each year ($26B was given back to the rest of Canada last year alone!). Besides, when Alberta prospers, so do the rest of us. Federal taxes collected from Alberta business helps pay for Medicare and other programs for the rest of Canada.

Thirdly, don't bite the hand that feeds you. Alberta supplies 70% of Canada's petroleum. Without that source, Canadian prices would fluctuate even more than they already do. In fact, this distribution could easily expand to supply the rest of Canada (working co-operatively with other Canadian oil and gas distributors, of course. This would make Canada totally self-sufficient when it comes to oil, something we should shoot for in this increasingly volatile world of energy needs.

Fourthly, and finally, Alberta, if it's smart, could do a lot of amazing things with its growing wealth. There are so many positive ways that it should spend its billions, and propelling Canada along with it, that I've come up with some examples:

- Why not spend money on researching and producing other sources of energy. For instance, Calgary now has a wind farm to help energize its mass transit – do more of this. Oil isn't going to be around forever, so before it runs out, make money selling alternative sources.

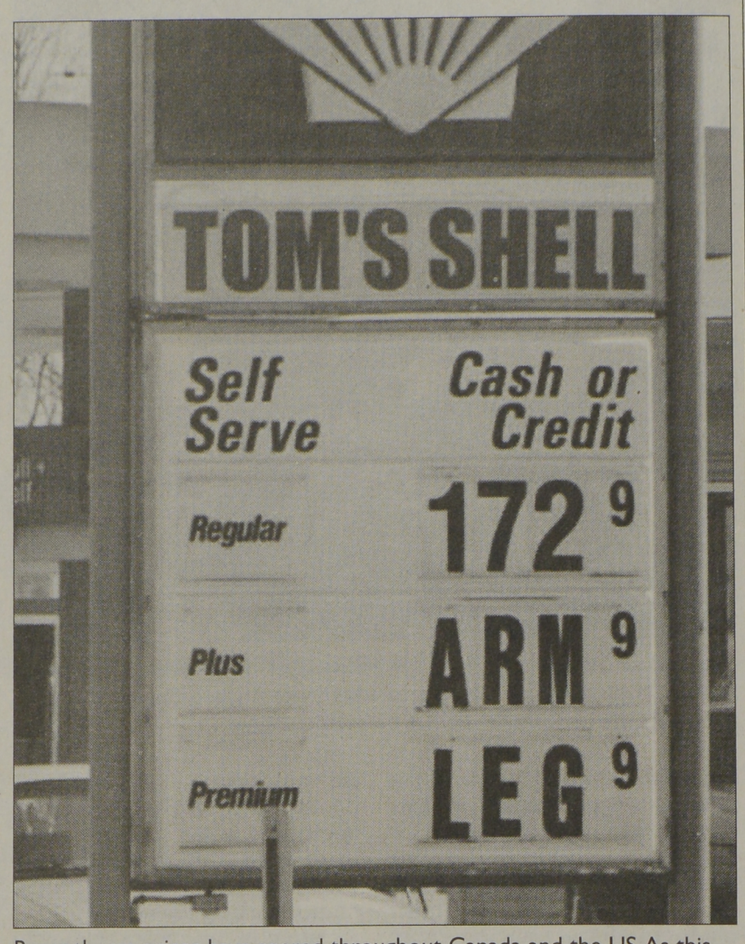
- How about the environment. With Alberta fuel being a huge source of pollution, wouldn't it be great to give some money to protecting the beautiful Rockies, majestic prairie fields, and thick, lush forests?

- Educate the masses. Education money comes from provincial coffers, so why not invest in the future of the province and the rest of Canada? Have a tuition freeze and put newer books in the hands of elementary students.

- Support the rest of Canada through supporting projects that are mutually beneficial. I mean really, be that rich uncle once in a while - but do it on your own terms.

After all, each province has had its heyday. Don't forget that New Brunswick was once the envy of Canada (Saint John was the biggest port in the country, and NB lumber was the money maker par excellence). Now it's Alberta's turn to sit in the sun.

Alberta, this is my message to you, so listen up - live the dream, and spend money on all those projects that had only seemed to be fantasy before. Cause one day soon, your wells will dry up and you will be looking on your neighbours for a little help.



Recently, gas prices have soared throughout Canada and the US. As this photo illustration makes clear, some feel the price is too high.

Message for UNB faculty & admin

Hello,

Though The Brunswickan may need no introduction, we'd like to share with you the new approach we plan to take when covering news and issues of relevance to students, faculty, and the rest of the university community.

This year we aim to be proactive and in-depth when reporting the news and issues students should be aware of. We believe that students deserve to be fully cognizant of the issues that affect them and their community - this means getting all of our facts straight and writing about them in an informative and fair manner.

Because the university is a big part of student's lives, many of our stories will be
centred around UNB. In order to keep our stories well rounded, clear and informative we must keep open clear lines of communication with all levels of administration, faculty and student organizations. The sooner we're aware of an issue, the sooner we can cover it and inform our community.

We realize that an informed and active community needs an informed and active press. But in order to be that active press, what need to be in the forefront of your minds whenever you come across an issue that you know will be of interest to students and the rest of the community here at UNB.

If you would like any more information on The Brunswickan, or if you know of an issue that needs to be covered, please feel free to contact us at bruns@unb.ca

On behalf of the Brunswickan and with warm regards,

Brendan Doyle, Editor-in-Chief &
Greg LeBlanc, Managing Editor

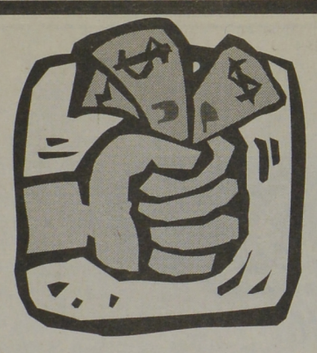
Message for everyone

Hello faculty and staff of UNB,

Coffee & Brunswickan - a great way to start your day!

That's right, as part of our fundraising efforts, the Brunswickan is now offering to have a copy of the Brunswickan plus a hot cup of coffee delivered to you each Wednesday that the paper comes out, all year long! It'll only cost you $2 per delivery, and it will help us raise money to send our aspiring journalists to Toronto for CUP's National Conference on student journalism. Interested?

Here's what you need to do: email or call us with your request; providing your name, office location, and the time when you'd like to receive your paper and coffee. It's that easy.



Work-Study

STUDENT INFORMATION

Work-Study is a subsidized work program designed to assist financially needy students with the high costs associated with post-secondary study. The program will also provide students with an opportunity to gain valuable skills/experience in an on-campus part-time employment situation.

Work-study positions are for 10 hours per week, **$9.00** per hour.

Due to the number of limited available positions, program eligibility will not guarantee employment.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility is restricted to full-time UNB *undergraduate and graduate* students with *demonstrated* financial need. Students must also be in good academic standing (*GPA of 2.0 and over from the most recent assessment year*) to be eligible for program consideration.

PROCEDURES AND IMPLEMENTATION

Step 1: CONTACT the UNB Financial Aid Office at 453-4796 between *September 6th – September 15th, 2005,* to set up an appointment for a *"Financial Assessment"* to determine program eligibility. Once program eligibility has been determined, the Financial Aid Office will forward your name to the Student Employment Service.

Step 2: VIEW the available positions from *September 6th – September 16th, 2005*, at Student Employment Services (SES) located in the Neville Homestead or by accessing the SES web site: *www.unb.ca/employment.*

Step 3: SUBMIT up to a maximum of eight resumes and covering letter *no later than September 16th, 2005 (4:00pm)* to Student Employment Service (Neville Homestead).

Step 4: HIRING DEPARTMENT will contact those selected for an interview.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Financial Aid Office
Alumni Memorial Building
Telephone 453-4796

OR

Student Employment Service
Neville Homestead
Telephone 453-4620

DEADLINE - for "Financial Assessment" is
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th, 2005