

This is a space filler.

It is a term that we in journalism field use often. I refer to some piece of junk jammed in between the Ads, preventing a gaping hole from appearing in your page. Very handy little items, what?

The Gazette is considering running a series of space fillers, depending on the response we get from this article. How do you like it so far? Doesn't it suit the purpose just great? Gee, I'm really excited already.

We could have political space fillers, student space fillers, or just those simple, straight forward down to earth space fillers that you've already come to know and love: The ones that just sit on your page and fill space. You'll get lots of those.

I'll be getting plenty of ideas for space fillers in the weeks to come. I'm a space filler myself. I've built a career out of doing absolutely nothing but fill space. This includes the seven years I was a senior civil servant, and my term in the legislature.

So tune into my column every week. You may as well, I'm week. You may as well, I'm going to write them anyway.

Professor Asquith Hauser
B.A. (Oxford) M.A. (Edinburgh)
Ph.D (Vienna) Doctor of Applied
Sincerity (Oral Roberts)

Editors Note: Professor Hauser is Druid-in-Residence at Dalhousie.

Fast getaway with the loot!

by Paul Creelman

Students at Dalhousie are sharing one money problem with everyone else in the country. The cost of heating oil and gasoline will be sky-rocketing in the next five years in Canada, due to a new oil pricing agreement between Ottawa and Alberta.

Government figures released this week show that the new pricing deal will cost consumers 4 cents a litre more for heating oil than they would have to pay under the budget of the defeated Progressive Conservative government. (The Liberals campaigned on a promise of

keeping oil prices lower than the proposed P.C. price hike.) Whether the new price hikes will hit the Maritime provinces and the lower-to-middle class consumers the hardest is yet to be determined.

Finance Minister Allan MacEachen told reporters last week that he has not yet decided if the new budget will help those most seriously affected by oil prices.

If the new budget does not include provisions to help those unable to handle the new increase in prices, though, one would have to wonder exactly what it will contain. The new

deal results in a lot of extra revenue for the federal government, but what they are going to do with it is anybody's guess.

Indeed, the reason why negotiations took so long after getting started last April was partly the complexity of ensuring that both Alberta and Ottawa took enough cash for themselves. During the marathon six day meeting in Montreal last month, hours were spent with portable computer terminals calculating a formula to guarantee the net 'bottom-line' revenue both governments had set as their goals. This money, needless to say, is coming out of the pockets of the consumers paying the new prices.

Another reason the pricing talks took so long is that Ottawa delayed the actual negotiations for 8 months after forming their government in March of 1980.

Succeed in business.

"It's a lot easier with a Texas Instruments calculator designed to solve business problems."

Touch a few special keys on these Texas Instruments calculators, the TI Business Analyst-II™ and The MBA™, and lengthy time-value-of-money problems suddenly aren't lengthy anymore. You can automatically calculate profit margins, forecast

sales and earnings and perform statistics.

And problems with repetitive calculations are a piece of cake for the MBA, because it's programmable.

These calculators mean business, and what they give you is time—time to grasp underlying business concepts, while they handle the number crunching. To make it even easier, each calculator comes with a book written especially for it, which shows you how to make use of the calculator's full potential.

The Business Analyst-II and MBA business calculators from Texas Instruments. Two ways to run a successful business major, without running yourself ragged.



TEXAS INSTRUMENTS
INCORPORATED



© 1981 Texas Instruments Incorporated



During this period, three attempts to get an oil price agreement failed. The Montreal Gazette reports that insiders cite the failures as a part of the Liberal strategy to buy time. This time would ensure that public pressure for a settlement would build, both in the public and industrial sectors. Indeed, by late winter, relations between the oil companies and the Alberta government were almost as bad as those between the companies and the federal government.

What was the result of all this ruthless maneuvering? The to the average consumer was a delay of a year in the price increases they were going to get anyway. The result to the Canadian economy has been a mood of uncertainty on international markets, and a Canadian dollar that has reached its lowest value since the Great Depression.

We can only hope that the additional hardship for universities and students who attend them will be offset by the federal government when they renegotiate the cost-sharing funds for post-secondary education. Surely any government taking in oil tax profits the way the federal government is, can afford to subsidize universities at a level comparable to that maintained in the past.

Otherwise, there may be a lot of cold university dropouts next year.

4
4.5
T50

36
108