

The ten provinces of America?

BY STUART MCMILLAN

Are the ten provinces of Canada really ten extra states of America?

Yes, it is back to the old Canadian/American patriotic debate of what is the difference between these two countries, and if there are differences, then what are they? As a European, I have the view of looking at the situation from the outside, from not being a thumping Canadian patriot, nationalistic or loyalist at heart.

If a Canadian was to go to Europe and ask somebody a question, let us say in Ireland or Great Britain where English is spoken, the person he/she would be asking would notice that the accent was from the other side of the Atlantic Ocean and would immediately think that this person was an American. Why is this? Apart from a more strict gun law, a much better health system, and some French-speaking citizens, Canada does not seem to be that much different from the neighbours down

south. Sports, like hockey, basketball, and baseball, are all played against American teams, in American leagues. The architecture, television, and the general culture are the same as down south. The only thing Canada has going for it is the stereotypical view it has from us snobbish Europeans, for as Americans are seen as IQ-lacking, dim people, Canadians get away with just being seen as boring (stereotypical I again state).

Everyone wants to think of themselves as special, as if they come from a pleasant beautiful country, which makes themselves different from others. When a Canadian looks at the red and white of the maple leaf flag or hears the national anthem, how very different is he/she from the country below? Citizens of this nice cold country state that they are different, but are Quebecers more different than Canadians are from Americans?

Yes, Canada does have some good things going for it which make it stand out as being distinct.

These include such things as maple syrup, Mounties, snow, and plenty of trees. What is this I hear — Canadians are friendly people. People will tell me that Nova Scotia is unlike Ontario, and Ontario is not like Vancouver. But look at the size of the country, and compare the different landscapes. Then look at the United States of America which is immune in every aspect. California is not the same as Massachusetts is it?

There is probably nobody out there who I will be able to convince of this fact, and indeed this is just my humble opinion. The chance of me being lynched on campus has dramatically increased, but I stand by my point that the ten provinces are an umbrella in which American culture lurks. I really do like Canada and would rather live here than the States (health care, friends) but my point is that there is still not too much of a difference. If Canada was to look closely into a mirror, it would see the stubble of America growing on its face.

What JoJo isn't telling you

BY ALAN LEBLANC

Sadly, the psychic phone service Psychic Alliance is on the road to financial ruin, and JoJo Savard will be unable to take your calls for her 1997 predictions. As her surrogate, it is up to me to perambulate over the events to transcend.

1. A federal election is on its way. Hot issues will be the GST and a further reduction in unemployment. I'm getting visions of a certain Shawinigan prime minister retaining Canada's top job. I see lower MP victories for the Reform and Bloc Quebecois and gains in the Liberal, PC, and NDP parties as voters flock back to their traditional voting habits.

2. John Savage and his government will NOT be calling an election, on the heels of passing the BST and further cuts to health care. Environment minister Wayne Adams will also not be charged with any wrongdoing in his involvement in a meeting as to where to facilitate a tire recycling plant.

3. Peter Gzowski will be leav-

ing the media spotlight altogether after stepping down from CBC's *Morningside*. His replacement will be a no-talent twenty something with no experience. Perrin Beatty will then announce the CBC will stop broadcasting from 9 to 12 EST because they obviously cannot find a suitable replacement.

4. Another so-called "Day of Action" will grind the greater Toronto area to a halt this summer in response to more of the Mike Harris spending cuts. Many patients will die from not being admitted into hospitals, while the Toronto Star reports how much these protests are getting accomplished.

5. The issue of fetal rights will come again as another woman will want to kill her unborn child days before it is born. The Supreme Court will uphold its original ruling that ultimately a woman has the right to choose, and that an unborn child is nothing but useless tissue.

6. BC premier Glen Clark will not be held accountable for lying to his constituents about the deficit, now estimated at almost \$400

million. The voters of BC will accept it as a small price to pay for being socialist, and the distinct weirdness that it implies. This will automatically qualify them for distinct society.

7. We will lose the Edmonton Oilers to a city that has no idea how hockey is played. See? It's not all bad news.

8. The Senate will once again confirm their uselessness by voting down a major crime measures bill. Allan Rock will go on TV and complain, the Reform party justice critic will complain about Rock's complaining, and the Senate will get a big fat pay raise. They work hard for their money.

9. At Dalhousie University, the DSU decides to implement its "Air Raid Siren on Every Corner Campaign" to cut down on the massive violence on campus. It will cost a ridiculous amount of money. Katherine Hannah will be touted as a champion of women's causes and no one will use the bloody things.

Sound far-fetched? Just wait and see. Happy New Year.

election countdown

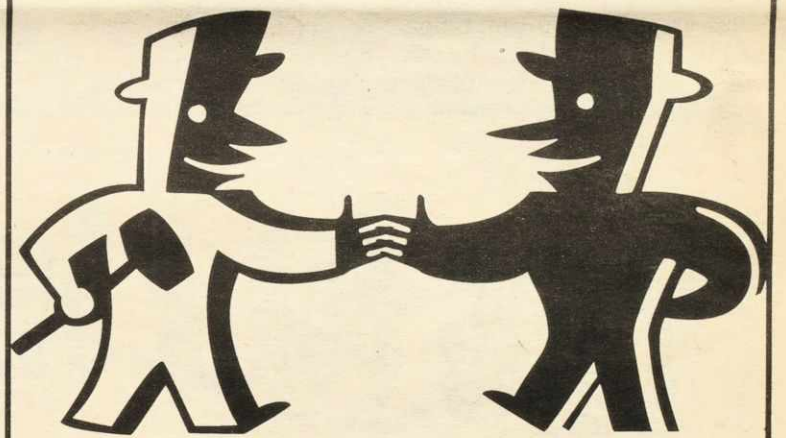
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