

Philip Preville

Provincial pulp policy injures earth

The Massachusetts state legislature has passed a law forcing all newspapers in the state to switch to 90 per cent recycled newsprint by the end of the next decade.

This sounds like a tremendous environmental move on their part, but — as explained last Sunday on CBC's *Venture* — they're just doing it because they can't afford the waste disposal bill. Everybody has to recycle or the state will go belly up.

It's a definite trend. New York's *Newsday*, the sixth-largest daily on the continent, is not bound by legislation but has nonetheless set a target of 50-60 per cent recycled newsprint by the year 2000. This voluntary move was based on environmental responsibility.

Expect this trend to continue, because public opinion is on the side of the Massachusetts legislators

and others who would follow in their footsteps. People want to recycle so desperately that there's more newsprint for recycling than the system can handle. The going rate for recycled newsprint in our city has plummeted since the introduction of the Blue Boxes.

Meanwhile, our provincial government has invested millions upon millions of tax incentive dollars trying to introduce a dying pulp and paper industry into Alberta.

An executive with a large U.S. newspaper corporation made a rather direct reference to this development on *Venture*. "The manufacturers are expanding, building big new plants in Western Canada," he said, "and we are going to have to say no to their product. We'll be bound by law to do so."

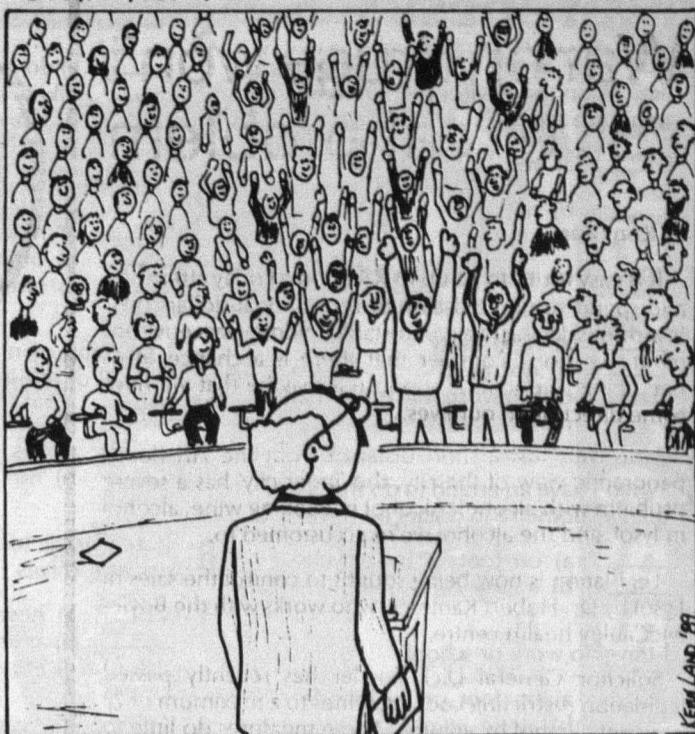
Abitibi-Price and other Canadian newsprint giants are scrambling to

set up their own recycling facilities so they can retain their market share. There just isn't room for expansion in pulp and paper.

Our provincial government, with their usual lack of foresight, has been telling us that the new pulp and paper mills are a great move for our province. They say it's a renewable-resource industry that will be around even after we've sucked all the oil out of mother earth, and it will help Alberta's economy continue to grow.

The environmental movement has mobilized the public in exactly the opposite direction. Alberta's pulp and paper industry will never get off the ground. It's time the Provincial Conservatives dragged themselves out of the dark ages and formulated a meaningful environmental policy.

UNIFARCITY



AS 'THE WAVE' SWEEPED THROUGH THE LECTURE HALL FOR A SECOND TIME, THE PROFESSOR REALIZED THAT HE HAD LOST THEIR ATTENTION.

POETRY

Ode to the Plastic Bag

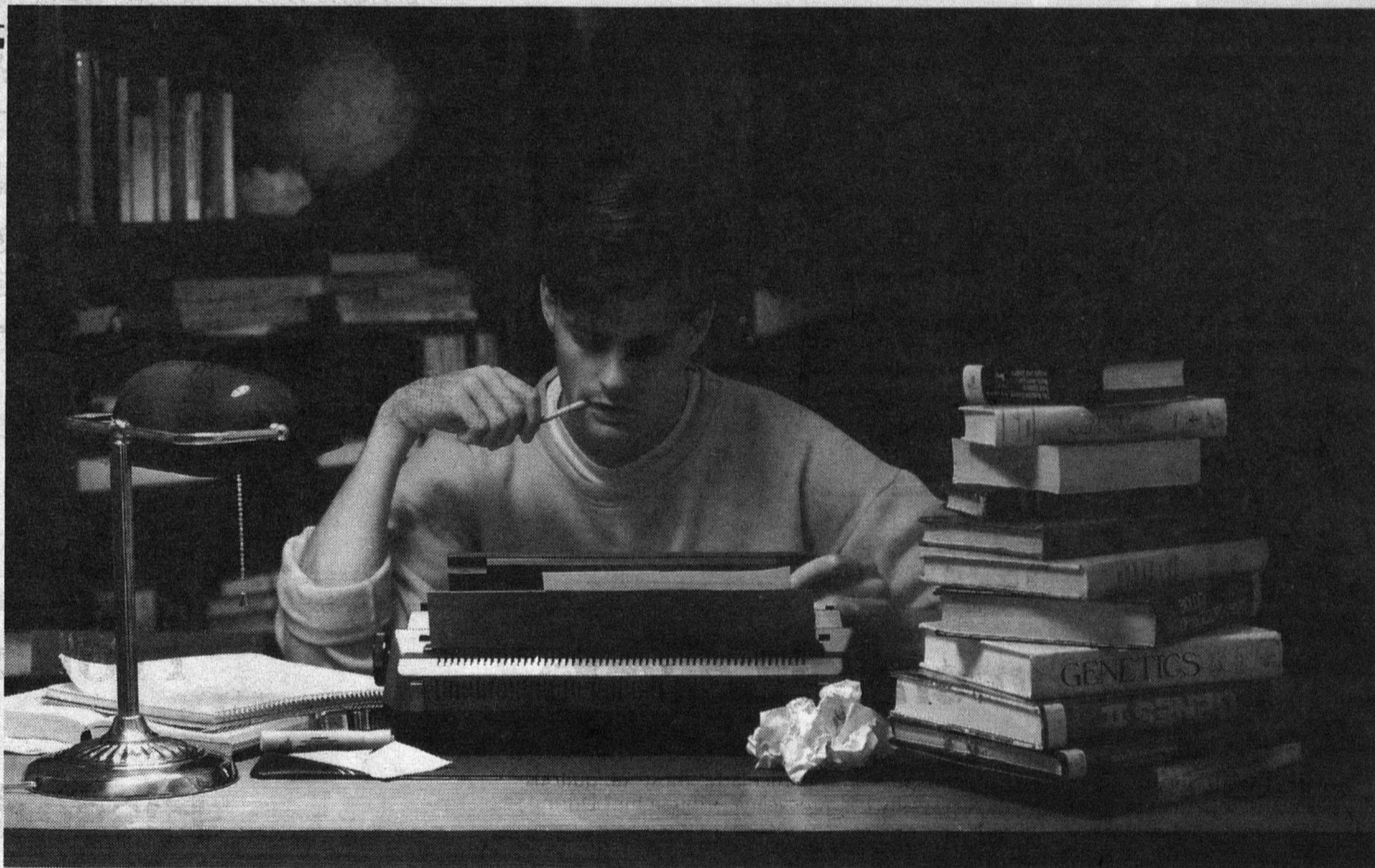
bag of bags
plastic and virtuous
suited for every stretch and shade
every imagination
every catch of the eye
every merchandise to buy
that leaves each grocery till
light yet firm
strong yet garbagable
once in the kitchen home

bag of bags
plastic and colourful
not brown like the rest
will never see its death
clings around the house
in every garbage can room
collecting the debris of luxurious living
a servant of societal kings
so easy to twist and tie
then throw away

bag of bags
plastic and immortal
outliving the biological earth
even time cannot degrade
its polymer shade
upon the black and filthy
rubbage heap dirt of earth

bag of bags
plastic and bulldozed
deep under the landfill world
choking its veins like a precious metal
many years later to be found
in ghost consumer mining towns
an imperishable streak
of fool's gold

—Michael Shane Lambert



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