

# Gateway persecutes Christians

I will try to ignore your implied judgement that all 1,000 people at the 'Chariots' forum were "Christians reaffirming their belief" (you might as well have implied that all 700 at the creation-evolution forum were all Christians, too).

I will try to ignore your initial implication that none of the 100 people at the land-claims forum were possibly Christians because you later save yourself the embarrassment by mentioning Project North, the inter-

church group.

I will try to ignore your value judgement that bible history is a "black and white" issue simply because, if you will pardon me, I do not seem to see it with the same degree of clarity. Never mind that it implicates a somewhat ambiguous term known as "faith."

I will try to ignore the fact that the Gateway showed no interest in covering, or even printing a submitted review, of last Thursday's concert by

"Jesus rock" singer, Larry Norman. It is not the fact that Norman sang to 700 people at SUB, and another 1,700 at the Jubilee the

next night, that I feel an objective paper might have had space at least equal to the drunken revelries given the Dillards (400

people attending). It is the fact that a 'socially' biased paper feels its readers needed two critiques of Les Ballets Jazz rather than a review of a Christian evangelical whose message hinges on social perception that disturbs me a

little. For Norman, the two ideas are inseparable.

I will try to ignore your seeming value judgement the 1,000 people at the "Chariots" forum are worse (because they have been singled out—for at least being unapathetic about something) than the other 19,000 on this campus. In the same stroke, I must really try to ignore the value judgement which deems political action has the right to precede personal integration.

You want a real democratic

process? Large numbers at a political forum will not guarantee that. Large numbers may only produce a mob capable of temporarily accepting someone else's values. Is that what democracy is?

Christian doctrine teaches that first, you should love the Lord God, and secondly, you should love your fellow man. Without the first concept there is no basis for the second which does end up at the self. Therefore, because, Christian doctrine teaches this, I, as a Christian, must try to ignore the inconsistencies in your framework. At the same time I must accept and thank you for your conclusion that we Christians, especially, should be concerned about our inconsistencies.

Lastly, I must question the valiative assumption of your whole editorial—that all have to be at least as politically aware as your ideal. I do not believe we are all Plato's or Marx's. Some of us are just Joe Blow's who have a hard enough time living within a sphere which may only go as far as Aunt May's vegetable garden.

Keith Miller  
Arts IV

**Ed. Note:** Just to make a short note about the reviewing policy of the paper (which, by the way, is set by the arts editor): there was also a major blues concert at the Jubilee (Lou Rawls), all the weekend concerts at the Hovel and about six new movies in the city which weren't reviewed, although some photos and reviews were submitted for such. Thus, our 'persecution' is properly distributed.

## Cannabis group gains momentum

The recent formation of a committee for the legalization of cannabis has sparked a fair amount of interest. Its major objective is to end the cannabis prohibition — that is — to ultimately legalize possession, cultivation, and distribution of cannabis. It is a public committee and as such welcomes participation by anyone concerned.

Assuming there is public interest, one of the first questions is one of what to do to achieve these goals. The Alberta Legalization of Cannabis Committee (ALCC) aims to organize public support, so our sentiments may be presented to the

Legislature which has official control over the penal code.

Representatives in government react to a hierarchy of priorities: the legalization of cannabis cannot be achieved until it is perceived as a worthy topic for legislative action.

We, as citizens, must establish the need for more representative legislation congruent with our sentiments. The Le Dain Commission Report of 1972 on cannabis established the need for penal reform but when proposed before the government, public support was not sufficient to move the legislature. The ALCC intends to use lobbying and demonstration as means to promote public awareness and support of the legalization issue. A silent minority does little to effect change.

At the individual level, we encourage all interested persons to take an active part in voicing opinions. A first step is to send letters to members in our government, expressing a concern over

the issue and an interest in what these members intend to do about cannabis prohibition.

These letters might be as simple as, "Dear Sir: I feel the present anti-cannabis legislation to be expensive and ineffective; both economically and socially. I look forward to receiving your views on reform with a description of your stand as to what we should do. RSVP..." (Remember that with more thought put into the question, more thought is demanded in the answer.)

Send a letter to each of the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice, Minister of Health and Welfare, The Opposition Leaders, and your representative MP. If enough individuals will take time to express their concern, the Legislature will be forced to realize a priority demanding attention — eventually action.

Rommen Semeniuk  
Arts IV  
ALCC Public Correspondent

## Misunderstanding in land claims

The topic of native land claims is one over which there exist an incredible number of misconceptions; Warren Steckley's letter (Gateway, Mar. 22/77) seems to reflect some of these misunderstandings.

Let me first state that I absolutely agree with Warren's concerns about our rights and our way of life. All human beings, whether they live in Yellowknife, Edmonton, Johannesburg (South Africa), Sao Paulo (Brazil), or Kingston (Jamaica) have the right (or should have) to determine their own lives. And it is this right that is the basis of native land claims, rather than the facts that "They were here first" or that "Well, there are treaties..." The government of Canada has, for over two hundred years, ignored the former and consistently violated the terms of the latter.

The native peoples of the North West Territories, the Dene, are simply trying to have it normally recognized that they, as to all Canadians, have a basic right to some degree of control over their own lives.

Additionally, I feel that the struggle of the native people is against a genuine problem affecting them as well as all Canadians. Warren, quite correctly, points out that "... when governments need parcels of land for projects (i.e. dams, highways, ... etc.) annexing bylaws are introduced and the government purchases the land despite the owners feelings." However, just because this practice exists, does that necessarily make it just or fair or even right? Does it seem reasonable that a government, which supposedly represents the wants, needs, and desires of the people, can proceed to expropriate land without consulting those people and regardless of whatever objections they might raise?

It is against this sort of injustice that the native peoples are fighting and against which we should all be fighting.

With regards to Warren's answer to our growing energy demands, "the MacKenzie Valley pipeline," I would like to suggest that Warren read Hugh McCallum's book *This Land is Not for Sale*, or perhaps speak with

Larry Pratt of this university's Political Science Dept. Both of these gentlemen point out that, first, we are not in immediate danger of a natural gas shortage (although the Americans are) and that, second, the amount of gas in the MacKenzie Valley is negligible as compared to the Alberta reserves. That we have to have new supplies of energy from the north immediately is a fallacy that has been perpetrated and maintained by the behemoth oil companies.

In summary, from the information available to me, I believe that the fight of the Dene is a fight against domination by the huge multinational corporations and against a government which supports and is supported by these monstrosities.

As such, their struggle is our own struggle, to gain some degree of control over our own lives.

Jerry T. McNeill  
Arts 4

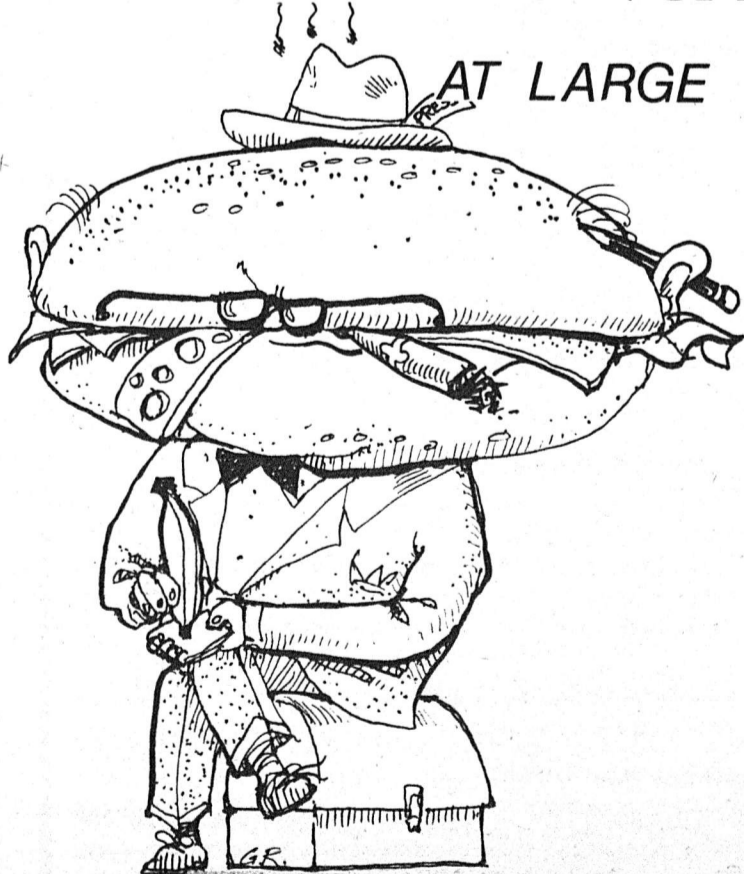
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## CHARLES LUNCH

AT LARGE



**Kampala:** Here in the searing white heat of the African sun, nary a breeze stirs the air as wildebeast and gnu roam the veldt in a never ending search for food ... sorry about that — I guess I've been hanging around these BBC correspondents too long.

Anyway, I'm here in the capital city of Ugandan to answer a serious question — just who does Idi Amin think he is, and will he get away with it? How has he managed to maintain such a stranglehold on the nation's 10,000,000 inhabitants? And who does he get to write those godawful speeches of his?

I arrived at Entebbe Field yesterday and was met by a motorcade of '57 Impalas and broken down Cadillacs, with Big Daddy himself triumphantly leading the procession in his dayglo-orange Rolls-Royce. When I made a remark about the turkey balls and the little puppy with the wagging head in the back window, he replied, "Well dis ain't no whorehouse on wheels, you know! So fuck you, and shut up or I'll shoot you!"

After cocktails at the beautiful Lake Victoria Golf and Country Club (rumoured to be

the last place in Uganda with unplugged toilets), I met with a group of American and British residents to find out if they are under any pressure from Amin.

After the guards had ushered me into their cellblocks, the cotton in their mouths was removed and they were allowed to say that yes, they were very happy, and no, they wouldn't be moving home for some time yet because they were having too much fun.

Then it was off to do some shopping in beautiful downtown Kampala, which boasts the highest per capita missing persons rate in the world.

The selection in the stores left a little to be desired, since the only item for sale was dried grass with day-old mud, but prices were reasonable since no one had money or barter to begin with.

Tomorrow there'll be a boat tour of Lake Victoria, if the body count is low enough, then ... wait a minute, somebody's at the door ..... hello, what ..... AAAAAUUUUUGGGGGHHHHH

**Ed. Note:** the text ended on this inauspicious note, as many of Chuck's columns do. But he'll be back next week ... I think.