

SECOND WIND

An occasional column of opinion by Gateway staff

A few lines to the Christians

by Jim Miller

Lunch with Colonel Nimrod McNair at the Dinwoodie Lounge on Tuesday was pretty much as I expected. Officially as a speaker for Campus Crusade for Christ, McNair's topic was "Relevance of Christianity in Leadership" but really he was there to serve up Jesus Christ. Well done.

Some of you who have made it past the words Jesus Christ may not be aware of what, for lack of a better term, I would call 'non-denominational Christianity'. In a nutshell, the message of this group is that the only thing you need do is accept the divinity of Jesus Christ and form a personal relationship with Him. Christ himself has done everything else through the atonement of the Crucifixion. In the words

of the popular advertising campaign, "He's all you really need."

Unlike Jens Andersen our local staff humanist, satanist, atheist or quack (depending on your personal preference), I do believe in God. But I don't believe a formal recognition of Christ is the only way to be "saved."

But let me introduce you to a concept of "saved". Colonel McNair spoke of sin as any action that was not in tune with the will of God. Being "saved" then is acting in accordance with God's will.

The question for me is, "Can you do the will of God without necessarily accepting Jesus Christ?"

For me the answer is yes.

Colonel McNair spoke of a universe guided and directed upon

scientific principles. Gravity, he said, is the same for all regardless of religion. He also spoke of a Creator who was omniscient and omnipresent. It is my contention that one wonderful scientific principle is embodied in being in tune with the divine will. That principle is the innate ability of the human mind to transcend relative phenomena and touch the Absolute. And, like gravity, it works regardless of your religious persuasion. Simply put transcendence is a conscious awareness of the infinite energy and intelligence upon which we exist. This is the part of Christ

activities, in fact any aspect of life you care to explore can provide a means to the transcendent. This is because, by definition, the transcendent is the basis of all phenomenal phases of existence.

Transcendental meditation has provided me with the most systematic means to the Absolute but I am not averse to those who would seek the same through the love of Christ, Allah or Jehovah. I am not averse to those who would seek the same through the discipline of Zen or Tai Chi. In fact, I am not averse to those who would seek the same in any direction. For I

The thing that bothers me about these 'born again' types is they appear to me to think they're the only ones who give a damn.

which is "the way, and the truth, and the life...". But in the words of a little known song, "You can call it anything if you think it needs a name. Infinity, Unbounded is Forever."

Logically being "saved" would be to maintain a constant conscious awareness of the infinite while living day to day. This is accomplished, over time, with consistent exposure to the Absolute. Music, literature, physical

have it on good authority that they shall "find."

When you really look at it, it becomes obvious that those who are really seeking are all looking for the same thing. Which allows 'Firesign Theatre' to state, "There's a seeker born every minute."

The thing that really bothers me about these 'born again' types is they appear to me to think they're the only

ones who give a damn. That everyone else is still dry behind the ears. Scientists don't want to help, unless they're Christians, they just want to prove God doesn't exist. Psychologists don't want to help, they simply want to rationalize sin.

Well I got "news" for you. There are many of us who appreciate the truth in Christ's message but also appreciate the truth in the Hindu statement "Thou art that." I even think there are some who don't believe any of this stuff and yet are still determined to live life in positive terms.

I have deliberately avoided what McNair has called his 'data base', the Bible, because I chose to argue my case on different grounds. But I'm almost sure someone is going to write in all these nifty quotes about "No man cometh to the Father, except through me" etc., etc.

Well two can play that game so let me give you a couple of quotes that illustrate the kind of situation I have been describing. On a more negative tone in Matt. 7, 21-23 it describes those that have worked miracles in the name of the Lord but for some reason have not fully found the mark.

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

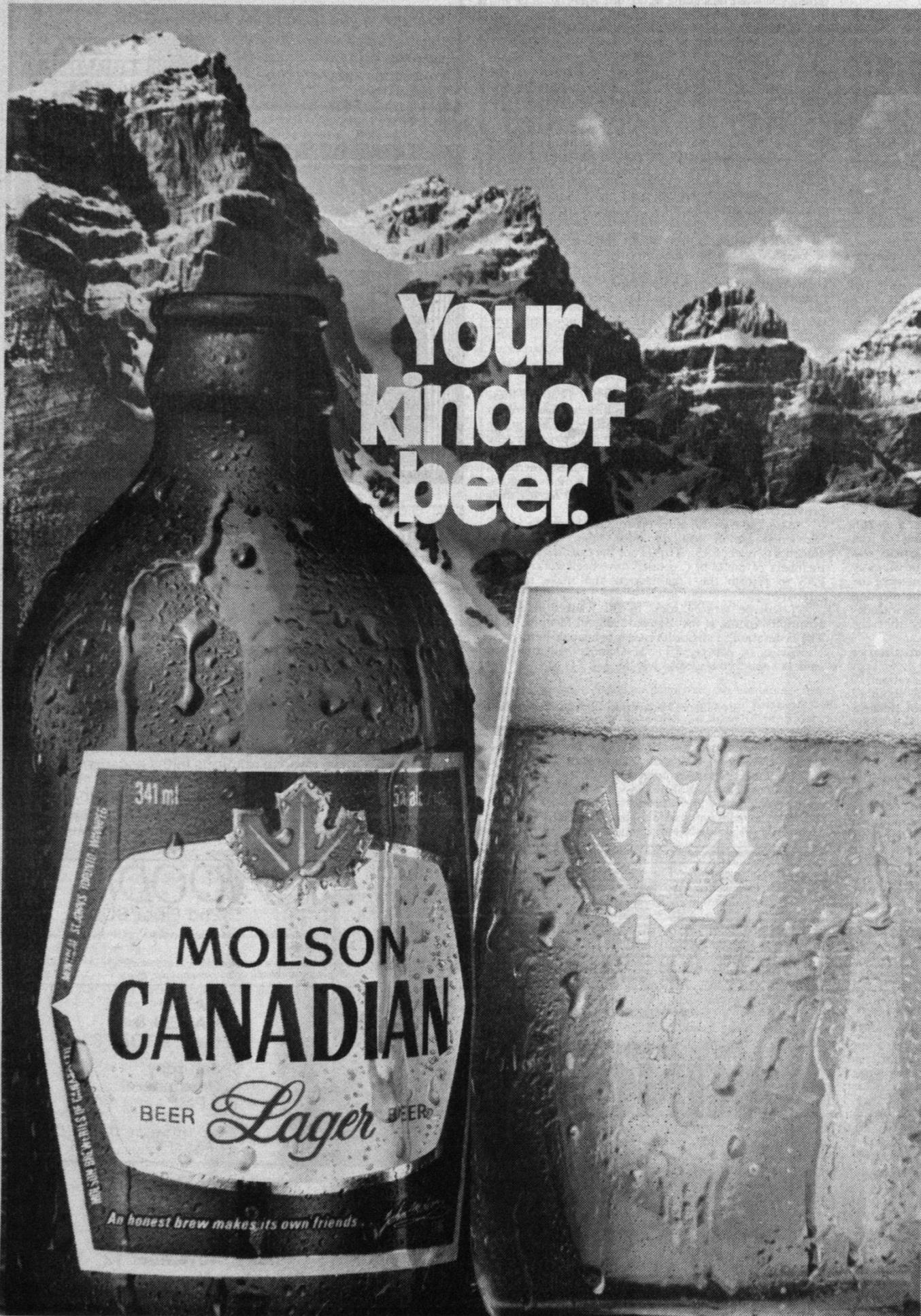
Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

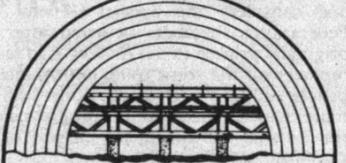
And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

On the more positive side we have one of the most beautiful passages in the Bible. It describes the individual who has served Christ without having any knowledge of how Christ really sees himself. The passage is in Matthew 25, 31-40 and shows bewildered, confused entrants into the kingdom of God.

At the conclusion of our discussion, which lasted about two hours, Colonel McNair remarked that I was not so far away from being a Christian as I might think. I did appreciate the chance to visit with him and it made me think of the spiritual side of my life. An area I have ignored of late and in that I'm thankful he came.

But it caused me to reflect later, that if Christians weren't so damned preoccupied with making sure they talked to us about Christ, they might just realize how "Christian" many non-Christians really are.





HIGH LEVEL
natural foods
Co-operative

"A Real Food Alternative"

- Bulk grains, nuts & beans
- Organic produce
- Vitamins & Herbs
- Tofu & yogurt
- Books & magazines

20% discount for co-op members

Non-members Welcome

Close to Campus at:
8532 - 109 Street
Phone: 433-6807

Hours
Mon 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Tues. - Fri. 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.