

Stampede explained

Re: "Herd of Cattle" in CAB

We apologize for the situation in CAB on Wed., Nov. 8; however, the problem was not the line up but the tables and chairs pulled across exit paths. The "herd of cattle" resulted when the Fire Marshall attempted to clear the exits by moving the line. Because of the resulting havoc, it was announced that tickets would be sold the next morning (Thurs. 9th) in Quad. Campus Security and the Fire Marshall approved of this decision.

The monies generated from Bar None go to running the Ag Club for a year and to charitable organizations.

I can assure those who have tickets will be attending a first class event on November 18, 1989.

Shane Chrapko
Bar None Director 1989

Religion not an excuse for crimes

Re: "Religion Untouchable" (Gateway, November 9)

Mr. Minish asserts that "Any person should be able to do anything for their religious cause without punishment or prejudice." Effectively, this would place any action motivated by religious conviction beyond the law.

To put it bluntly, what makes religion so special? Why should religious belief be any kind of defense? In my opinion, crimes are crimes, whether committed in the name of man or god, and those who commit them deserve to be punished. Are we to believe that the burning of heretics by the medieval Inquisition, or the hanging and shooting of Baha'is in Iran today, is perfectly all right because the killers are simply following their religious beliefs? What exactly is a 'religion', anyway? Might not communism be considered a religion? Or nazism? And what about people with different religious beliefs? Are we supposed to tolerate any sort of criminal behavior that is religiously motivated when we don't even accept the beliefs that motivate it?

Morality is quite commonly based, not on religion, but on reason and philosophy. More importantly, laws are not moral, but utilitarian, in nature. Ideally, laws

exist to preserve social peace and harmony by forbidding disruptive conduct and providing the means to settle disputes non-violently. Murder and grave robbing are forbidden by law because they are socially disruptive, and anyone who breaks these laws deserves punishment. Whether or not the lawbreaker is a Muslim, or a Satanist, or whatever is not and should never be an issue in the law. That is the real meaning of religious tolerance.

This, then, is my view: religious tolerance and diversity, by all means; religious license, by no means.

David Leeson
Arts III

Do we fear compromise?

I am beginning to think that it is impossible to understand people. Why must we hurl accusations at each other and try to convince ourselves that our own slanted versions of the truth are the only right

way of looking at things, and that everyone else is completely wrong? Take Quebec, for example. The Westerners seem to think that it should be thrown out of Canada, and the Quebecers seem to think that they should leave of their own accord, and soon. Why?

Because the Westerners believe that Quebec demands too much. Because Quebecers think that Westerners are trying to force them to become "just like the rest of Canada." Quebec demands that it be allowed to be a distinct society. Fine. It is. But so is Newfoundland, and all the Indian reserves. And Calgary, for that matter.

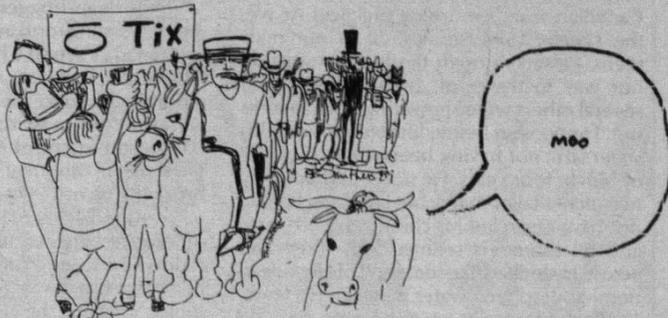
Canada is based upon multiculturalism; it is supposed to be a great cultural mosaic. However, a mosaic is designed to fit together in beauty and harmony. Hardly the situation here. Each piece of the "mosaic" seems to be screaming that it is being pushed off the design, and demands that it get special treatment.

I do not believe that Canada is a bad marriage between Quebec and

the rest of Canada. Provinces are not people, nor should the country be considered as two distinct groups, as it is many. If these groups do not start to work together in solving our national problems, then our beloved country will disintegrate and will gradually be absorbed by the melting pot of the States, where all cultures are artificially fused into one. At least then we can't argue about whether Sikh RCMP's should wear turbans anymore.

It's easy enough simply to grab the first viewpoint that sounds reasonable. But to actually think out a reasonable, workable solution that is fair and agreeable to all Canadians seems to be beyond our leaders. Perhaps this is because our leaders are inept. Or perhaps we all fear compromise as a "surrender to the enemy". Will we be able to grow up while we still have a country?

Darren S. A. George
Science II



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