

Edmonton Tools for Peace moving

continued from p.1
campaign has been the largest non-governmental development effort to benefit Nicaragua. The 1986 collection of supplies exceeded \$2 million in value.

Since its inception in 1984, the Edmonton based organization has sent a half million dollars worth of supplies.

The nation wide Tools for Peace campaign was initially conceived in 1981 by a group of British Columbian fishermen who collected \$25,000 worth of fishery equipment and placed it with a Nicaraguan freighter in the Vancouver port. The Vancouver operation has inspired co-operating and independent Tools for Peace campaigns throughout Canada. The goods are distributed in Nicaragua to unions and community organizations through the Augusto Cesar Sandino Foundation,

which is a non-governmental agency.

Currently, the Edmonton group faces the crisis of having to acquire new and adequate warehouse facilities.

The group has been renting its facilities at 9106 Jasper Avenue from the City of Edmonton. Recently, the City has been involved in selling the property.

City businessman Rudy Wigger of Wigger Draperies, has offered that the Tools for Peace project may continue such vital storage; the medical equipment and possibly other important materials. However, the group faces the predicament of having to find "at least 5,000 feet of inexpensive warehouse by the end of the month," said Williams.

Replying to how might students assist the campaign, Williams com-

mented that "we could use people with good reading and writing skills." He further added that a student organized collection could be highly significant. "Notebooks, writing materials, books in Spanish, medical books in English especially, any kind of educational equipment from geometry sets to erasers are all desperately needed."

An immediate concern is for volunteers for the end of the month move to the new facility.

Anyone interested can contact Tools for Peace in Edmonton by phoning 421-1295.



Agricultural development in Nicaragua

Drug growing a right at UBC?

VANCOUVER (CUP) —University of British Columbia's self-proclaimed "professional troublemaker" is going to court to fight for what he considers his constitutional right to cultivate marijuana on campus.

Long-time student Blair Longley thinks people should be able to get a licence to cultivate cannabis for personal consumption.

Longley said laws prohibiting cultivation of cannabis contradict Section One of the Charter of Rights, which says legal limitations on personal freedoms must be "reasonable and demonstrably justified in a democratic society."

"The question at hand is whether or not it's reasonable to sentence someone to jail for seven years for growing the cannabis plant," said Longley.

"If anybody listens to the arguments it's impossible to think that it's reasonable and justified. It appears crazy and bizarre," he said.

Longley said he is happy to be going to court as it will finally give him a platform to express his views.

To protest the drug laws, he has been openly growing marijuana in community gardens at Simon Fraser University and UBC since the Char-

ter came down in 1982. He said police have often destroyed his crop but have been reluctant to lay charges.

Longley said marijuana is not dangerous enough to justify the degree of criminality attached to it.

"The law would be reasonable if it (pot) drove people delirious until they died, but it's not that way," he said.

Tobacco's more poisonous, more addictive, and worse substance to smoke. (Cannabis)...is not toxic, nor does it become physiologically addictive."

Cannabis is only harmful if smoked, as is any substance, said Longley. And though he admits cultivation implies consumption, Longley claims his fight is not to legalize smoking the drug.

"The smoking is irrelevant," he said. "What I'm saying is that it should be legal to grow it in your garden." Longley prefers his pot in omelets, and said eating it is "nutritious."

Longley says it is hypocritical to make cannabis illegal when opium poppies and other narcotic herbs are freely grown and legally available through see catalogues.

Because gardeners can legally

grow poppies as long as opium is not produced, "the parallel situation would be you could grow cannabis as long as you weren't producing hash," he said.

Longley said he also opposes marijuana laws because they are the product of racist policies.

Marijuana, along with opium, was first outlawed in Canada not because of medical dangers but to persecute the Chinese and deter immigration, said Longley.

Racist sentiment against the Chinese was strong in the early 1900s and many elements of their culture, including opium and Indian hemp, were made illegal, he said.

"It is possible to make a case that it was rational to prevent Chinese immigration, and one of the tools was making various parts of their culture illegal," said Longley. Even though the original reason for it is obsolete, "it's a tool of persecution that's still operating," he said.

The Narcotics Control Act prohibiting the use of opium and other drugs, including Indian hemp, was passed in 1923. In the same year, the passage of the Chinese Immigration Act placed a head tax on Chinese immigrants.

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