

Country must be salvaged for our descendants

The everlasting impact Jesus has on history is due to the fact that in his teachings he replaced "Might is Right" with humility, compassion, and love for the poor and powerless.

He taught that in the eyes of the Lord power and riches are, if anything, a hinderance on the way to his heart, not a help. In today's language this means that all the material goods we are so concerned about are preventing us from gaining happiness and fulfilment within God's creation.

His early followers and the later ones too, were only too human. They very soon added their prejudices and hatreds to the teachings of Jesus. Once these early followers organised themselves into a church, their organisation developed into a worldly club for ambitious males headed by a great prince instead of a humble carpenter.

As a result the white man became, with the blessings of his church, something to be feared instead of loved. The conquest of



John Sommer
IDEAS AND THE ARTS

Mexico by a gang of Spaniards in 1519 is only one chapter in a very sad and long tale.

When the monk Luther eventually stood up to accuse the church of corruption and wrongdoing, the refusal of Rome to reform dragged Europe into a devastating war that lasted for 30 years.

However, the division of Christianity into two opposing camps made the enlightenment of the 18th century possible. The division of church and state, free speech,

religious tolerance, all these principles by which most of us try to live today, would not have come about without Luther and his fellow reformers.

But all the wars and revolutions that have shaken Europe to its foundations had the effect that we are deeply taking sides.

We find our own civilisation of such prime importance that all the other civilisations and cultures on this earth are of only slight interest to us. We raid their artifacts and sacred objects and display these in our museums as proof of our superiority. And the people who made the artifacts we treat like children that have to be taught the blessings of our way of life.

When our ancestors came to this continent hundreds of years ago they found a native population that had seemingly lived here forever. Since our religion of love (oh irony!) had been imposed on many of our ancestors back in Europe by the sword, the early settlers in North America did likewise. They had no respect nor love for these "savage" people and they despised their beliefs. Most of them they killed and the remaining orphans became their wards. But orphans everywhere are grudgingly given the barest necessities of life only, and the reserves we have set aside for our native population are far from generous compared to what we took from them.

Yet we complain that the Canadian Indians refuse to merge with our society and make our values their own. But what values do we have to offer to a people to whom the sacred grounds of their ancestors are of greater importance than a golf course. We who recklessly sell everything that is fine and unique in order to make a buck?

Now we have the barricades at

Oka, a total impasse and breakdown in communication. Our ancestors stole the land we are living on and our rulers refuse to sit down with the people the land was stolen from. Who are these officials of a Christian government, so lacking in courtesy towards the original inhabitants of this great land? Who are they to call these proud, suffering people "criminals" before a proper trial has taken place? Isn't it time we put our country in order before we tell the South Africans, for instance, how to behave in theirs?

Between 1945 and 1970 in East Germany all property, if farm, factory, or house, was confiscated from the owners by the state. Now the world rightly demands that

these properties are returned to the owners or compensated for. Likewise our federal government has no excuse to sit on a high horse with regard to the oldest Canadians in the country.

As to Mr. Parizeau, the leader of the Opposition in Quebec: By treating his own minorities with the respect they deserve, he could teach us all in the rest of Canada how to treat the minority of French-speaking Canadians. And maybe by making our peace with the original Canadians, and by unburdening our conscience in doing so, we will finally stop our bickering with each other over stolen goods and find the time and energy to salvage this country for all our descendants.

Police auction

Halton Regional Police wants to sell you a bicycle, cheap! The police are holding an auction at the Indoor Mall on Guelph Street August 10.

In addition to 150 bikes, the auction will include everything from baseball gloves, jewelry, stereos and cassettes, leather jackets, purses and even a small water softener.

The viewing of auction articles will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the auction will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Police district clerk, John Horning, wants to encourage Halton Hills residents to attend the auction. "It's a good way for the police to interact with the community," he said.

Sympathy extended

By KAY WILSON
Norval Correspondent

Since sympathy is extended to the family of John (Jack) Hunter, who passed away at the Bennett Health Care Centre, Georgetown, on July 26.

Beloved husband of the late Freida Featherstone, and loving father of Charles and his wife Mary of R.R. 2, Georgetown. Loving grandfather of Cindy Woudstra, John and Elizabeth Hunter, and great grandfather of Amanda.

Predeceased by brothers Ike and Cliff Hunter, Mabel Whaley and Pearl Black.

Funeral service was held at J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home, Georgetown, on July 30, at 2 p.m. Interment in Greenwood Cemetery, Georgetown.

Open house

Please come and help us celebrate the 90th birthday of Gladys Chester, at the home of Jack and Jean May, R.R. 2, Norval, Ont. "Grandmama" and her family will be receiving guests

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from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 12, 1990. Best wishes only.

25th anniversary

Arthur and Donna Rice of Terra Cotta celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary July 21. The evening party was held in the Terra Cotta Community Hall.

Hosting the party was Arthur's mother, Bessie Countryman, and the Rice's sons James and Gary. Around 70 people attended and enjoyed a beautiful buffet, while visiting.

Kathy and Kari (Rice) Poole of Surrey, B.C., visited for the weekend, and attended the party.

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