

# Gateway letters

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## LETTERS

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# letters

## Department "yes"

During a recent skirmish with a common venereal disease, I managed to find time to write to the Department of the Attorney General. My letter was very brief and it consisted of the following simple question:

"Is it possible for a single woman, about 24 years old, in good health and about 8 weeks pregnant, to get a legal abortion?"

Being of the gender that would only require the assistance of an abortionist in cases of extreme constipation, I was amazed when I received a rapid reply in which I was given the title: "Miss". The meat of the reply is here published verbatim:

"The Criminal Code provides that an abortion is permissible if performed by a qualified medical practitioner in an accredited or approved hospital if:

"the therapeutic abortion committee for that accredited or approved hospital, by a majority of the members of the committee at which the case of such female person has been reviewed, has by certificate in writing stated that in its opinion the continuation of pregnancy of such female person would or would be likely to endanger her life and health."

The Department of the Attorney General is not in a position to answer your question more specifically. The decision as to whether an abortion should be performed is one made by the medical profession. If, in the opinion of a qualified medical practitioner, an abortion, under the circumstances, is warranted the case is then referred to the therapeutic abortion committee of the hospital, who make the final decision.

In view of the time that has already elapsed I would suggest that you see a qualified medical practitioner as soon as possible. Generally, if an abortion is found to be necessary, it is performed within the first 12 weeks of pregnancy."

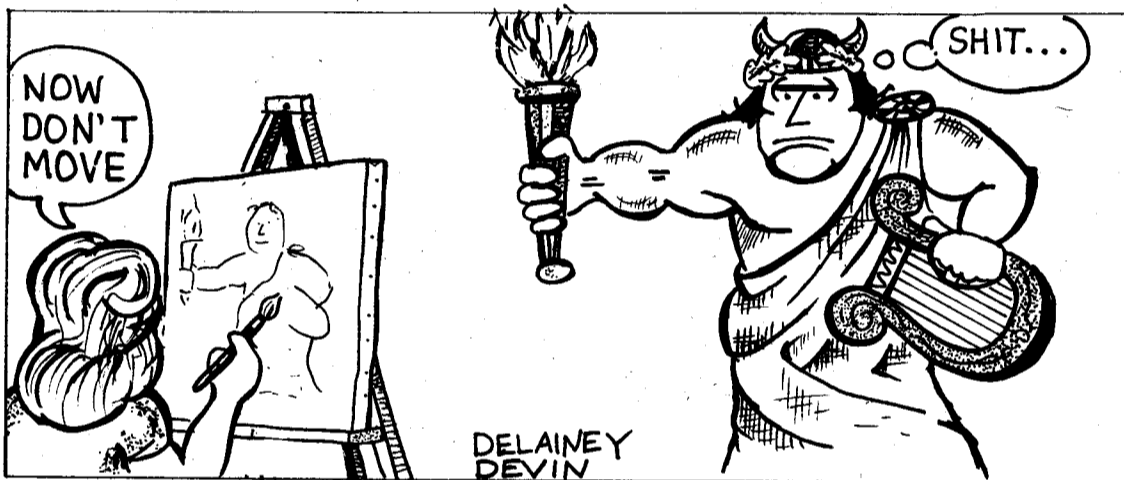
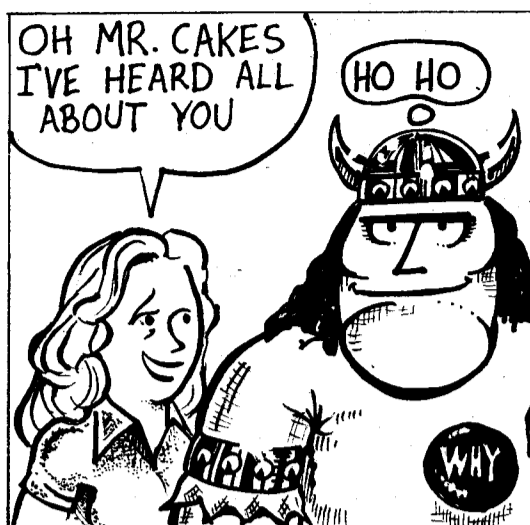
The above reply is the most long-winded version of the word "yes" that I've yet seen.

A.P. Kolinsky  
G.S.

## The last word

I would like to substantiate my statement that Tibet has been part of China for centuries and never declared independence in my April 1 letter and reply to the letters of Mr. Gilhooly and Mr. Savard of April 3.

Tibet became a vassal state of China from the time of Kublai Khan in 1260 and remained in such a status throughout Yuan and Ming dynasty. Sino-Tibetan relations entered upon a new phase in the Ch'ing dynasty (1644-1911). Although the Imperial government strengthened its hold on Tibet, "there has been no claim raised by Tibetans for total or even greater independence of China, no wish to deprive themselves of the aid and guidance of China," a remark from Dalai Lamas and Their Relations with The Manchu Emperors of China 1644-1908 by W. Rockhill Published in 1910. Even the British Foreign Minister mentioned Tibet as "that province of



'the Chinese Empire' as late as 1904.

After China was proclaimed a republic in 1911, seats were allotted to Tibet in the National Assembly and the original five colored national flag had the black bar to stand for Tibet. On April 12, 1912 President Yuan Shih-Kai declared that Tibet was an integral part of the Republic. The treaty dictated by the British at the Simla conference in 1913 was not signed by the Chinese government (as pointed out by Mr. Savard) and cannot be recognized as official. In 1934, "Tibet Office of Commission on Mongolian and Tibetan Affairs" was opened in Lhasa. The commission was of Ministry status under the executive branch of the Nanking government. In 1946 Tibet participated in the National Assembly to draft the new constitution as well as that of 1948 to select the President and Vice-President.

The above historical facts indicate that Tibet was part of China prior to 1950. Mr. Gilhooly's claim that Tibet was independent between 1911 and 1951 without reference to history is, to coin Mr. Gilhooly's phrase, indeed 'facile and lazy' and 'demonstrably false.'

One can think of Tibet as autonomous under Chinese suzerainty without Chinese interference prior to 1950. Therefore, the following statement made by Mr. Savard in his Mar. 27 letter, "they (China) conquered the nation of Tibet in 1950, a nation independent since 1911" is erroneous.

Hing-Lan Lam  
Grad. Studies

## Hungry lunch

We held a Hunger Lunch today to raise money for Canadian Save the Children Fund (CANSAVE). We would be grateful if you would allow us to report to the University community that we made \$211.71.

Our thanks to all those who worked for Hunger Lunch and all those who donated.

N. Parker-Jervis  
for Hunger Lunch Committee  
English Dept.

## VP services replies

The Students' Union Executive Committee, the HUB Restaurant staff, the General Manager and myself are concerned about the recent criticism concerning the operation of the HUB Restaurant.

The operation of the restaurant comes under the Vice-President, Services area of responsibility. The policies in effect in the restaurant have the informed approval of the Vice-President, Services and Students' Council. These policies are under continuous review by the Services Advisory Committee which reports to the Vice-President, Services. Therefore any criticisms concerning policy should be directed to the Vice-President, Services.

The manner of enforcement of these policies is the General

Manager's concern. With respect to the criticism of the HUB Restaurant staff towards policy enforcement, the General Manager suggests the criticism was one-sided and did not fully explain the circumstances surrounding the incident.

The philosophy in recommending policies by which the Students' Union operates to Student's Council is to keep the number of policies as few and as flexible as possible with the goal of allowing the greatest number of students to enjoy the services provided by the Students' Union. Certainly, a few people may inadvertently or otherwise come into conflict with these policies. If these people would look at the circumstance objectively, I would hope they could see rationale for the policy and not come into an adversary conflict with the staff member concerned. The policies established for the HUB Restaurant were intended to provide an alternative to the manner in which RATT operates (ie. table service vs self serve, tables and chairs remaining in same places vs allowing tables and chairs to be moved). However we are always open to suggestions for improvement.

In response to some of the other complaints, the following is happening:

1. A larger cooler will be finished by the end of April and should eliminate the warm beer problem.
2. The tables are going to be resurfaced this summer so that dirt will not accumulate on the present rough table surfaces.
3. The problem of slow