

# Abortion law hypocritical

The hypocritical nature of Canada's abortion law was finally recognized when the Supreme Court of Canada threw it out.

Abortion is, legally speaking, a black and white issue. Either it's legal or it isn't.

But Canada tried to have it both ways by walking a path somewhere between legal abortion and illegal abortion. This was the great flaw of the law.

Any law, be it good, bad or indifferent — has to be applied evenly to all persons.

The requirement of the old law for all abortions to be approved by a therapeutic abortion committee screamed of inequity.

Inequality number one: the abortion law's application varied according to where you lived.

If you lived in a "pro-choice" area, especially in those provinces where Hospital Boards are elected, access to abortion was pretty good.

If you lived in a "pro-life" area, access was bad.

Inequality number two: access varied according to your Provincial Government.

Provincial Governments have the power to regulate health care — thus provincial governments could regulate under what conditions an abortion could be conducted, and at what price.

This is why a restrictive B.C. government could make an abortion hard to get in B.C., while a less restrictive government in Quebec could allow free standing abortion clinics — both operating under the same law.

Inequality number three: money.

If you're poor you have to hope your hospital board, and provincial government was sympathetic. If you're rich, you take a flight down to Las Vegas.

Canada can't have it both ways — either abortion is legal or it isn't.

The task facing the Federal government is to create one law on abortion, applied equally across Canada, for all Canadian women.

Ken Bosman

## The Gateway



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Letters to the Editor are encouraged and always welcome.

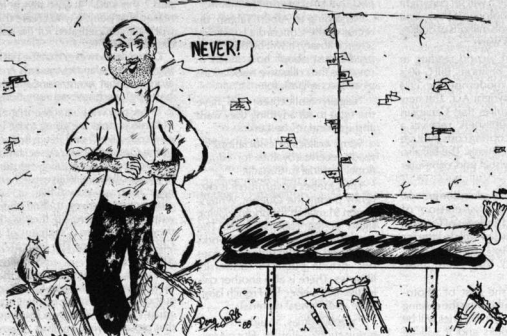
If you have a comment which would be of interest to the students of the University, please do not hesitate to send it in. All we require is your name, address, and phone number, and student ID if you are a student. We will print letters missing any of these.

Letters should be no longer than three hundred words.

Mail or deliver your letters to Room 282 SUB, or drop them at any SU information booth.

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# Legalize Abortions?



## LETTERS

### Medicine needs shakeup

Empathy maybe, but sympathy? No way. Get a grip, you knotheads. This is a response to the Gateway Staff's inadvertent heading "Nurses Need Sympathy", which was applied to my article about the quality of life issue inherent in the nursing strike.

It seems incredibly ironic that on page 2 of Tuesday's Gateway, another article states that universities need more radicals. The Vancouver clipping explains how elite institutions need more radicalism, and one of their examples touches upon the notion of homeopathic medicine. In my article, I attempted to disseminate some of the seeds of radicalism, but the Gateway staff failed abominably by not picking up on this. Instead, they slapped on a stupid, innocuous label like "Nurses Need Sympathy".

Originally, I had toyed with the idea that instead of "survival of the fittest" we have moved to "survival of the shittiest". But I felt that this rather crass portrayal of the issue was too tasteless to submit. However, it would appear that tastelessness is the only way that newspapers get read. So fine, whatever it takes. Make the essence of my claim known:

We are not asking for sympathy! We are asking for a revolutionary change in our health care system from the paradigm of Cartesian dualism. Following this paradigm shift, the mind-body problem would once again be yoked so that not only quantitative, but also qualitative aspects of the human experience of illness are addressed as an integrated whole. This whole would involve changes such as conceptualizing disease as dis-ease, re-orienting monetary resources from acute care only towards health promotion, relieving nursing staff of backbreaking patient care that only prolongs body and does not enhance mind, eliminating the need for physicians to maintain paper trails just to justify the ethical dilemma of when to pull the plug, and forcing society at large to grapple with the inevitability of death rather than deny it. This is what I was saying, not that "Nurses Need Sympathy".

Anne Yakimishyn

### Are you Stech?

I wrote this letter due to some injustices I feel have gone on long enough. Firstly, the matter of Gord Stech. What kind of name is "Stech" anyway? I have no problem with him, I just like saying "Stech". Actually I'd like to know if he's on loan from somewhere because he certainly isn't a columnist, and with his

humor he certainly isn't of the human race. Humor from hell. Do us a favor Stech, state your opinion and leave the humor to the primates of the human variety.

Secondly, reviewing The Gateway I noticed the standings of our various varsity teams. It would appear that apart from the hockey and swim teams the rest of the teams have been cut from the budge. As a former member of the now defunct Track Team I come to the harsh reality of the chances of reinstatement. They apparently can't be very good. With the success of our other teams, there's no room for a team which more often than not was ranked in the top five nationally. I notice that our basketball teams are top five. Or is that fifth in Canada West.

I'll give these teams credit though. Their seasons force them to train year-round as with track and field. Look at the football teams funding. For a sport which is over by November, I don't understand the thinking here.

In closing, I do expect some rebuttals, but unfortunately none of them will be from the sports administration. Have they gone the way of Jim Morrison, or do they just cover their eyes and think no one will find them.

Dave Findlay

### Get a LIFE

Re: Soccer Brawl Sickening (Gateway, Feb. 2)

Dear Miss Veran it disturbs me to think that amidst all the power, corruption and lies, all it takes to stir your blood and write a letter to the editor is the drunken comments of a few frat boys. And screaming bloody murder, you call this racism!

It seems that you are in search of a paradise, a utopia, or something of this as yet unrealized ilk. If what you want is a country where you are happy to be categorized in the same group as everyone, then I suggest that you close your eyes very tightly and dream very hard.

If all you have experienced in your life to give you reason to scream Racism! Racism! Racism! is the "distasteful comments" (and I use your words Miss Veran) of a few drunken men after a heated soccer match, then think yourself lucky!

Do us all a favor and direct your concerns to more pressing, more important affairs than idiotic, slanderous mutterings, and the ineptitude of a few frat boys.

Stephen A. Noble

Regarding your statements that begin "The Bible clearly states..." and "The Bible teaches..." I caution you. The Bible is like any other body of literature, and any English professor will tell you that literature has many interpretations. Each individual who reads the Bible has his or her own interpretation of its scriptures.

And why don't you take a look at the hatred, disease, war, starvation, and brutality in this world and tell me if, in fact God really exists.

Finally, I strongly object to your statement that in order to find "truth and live happily and freely, we must turn to the love of God..." I have been a confirmed atheist most of my life, and I am by no means unhappy or dissatisfied. My life is fulfilled through my accomplishments and abilities, and through the deep love I have for my family, friends and myself. I don't give the credit to a deity for which there is no proof of existence.

Next time you decide to critique somebody's lifestyle, think about how you'd like it yourself. Not very pleasant, is it?

Shannon Conan

### Block head

This letter is sent to you although the person to whom I am addressing my views is someone else; someone who unfortunately remains anonymous to me. Please allow me to air my grievances as I suspect others have also been inconvenienced. My complaint is directed at the person who unplugged my block heater. This presumably was done so that he could run an in-car heater as well as a block heater. In the hope that he is reading this let me state unequivocally: YOU ARE A SNOT-HEAD!

It should not require stating but for all those on campus who: read the Sun, smoke, say "like" alot, find that picking their 649 numbers is their most demanding intellectual exercise; don't unplug another car so that you can use two plugs.

My personal complaints go further because the culprit I felt victim to was not content with merely stealing my power — a crime for which the motive is at least understandable. For the pleasure it provided his feeble capacities he felt compelled to break my power cord. Good show snothhead. Keep playing those 649 numbers; I am convinced it's your only chance at success.

Peter Gaffran