

Condom machines

MONTREAL (CUP) — Although condom vending machines have been installed in washrooms at McGill University, other schools in Quebec are still waiting for students to propose similar measures.

"It would be a more positive thing if it was the initiative of (the student council)," said Pat Hardt, director of health services at Concordia University.

Referring to an earlier proposal to set up similar machines at the university, Hardt said that "we spoke with some departments and there was a feeling it was not in the mandate of health services to impose our views.

We could decide that vending machines are needed and go to great expense to install them and then have students say we have misused funds," Hardt said, explaining why the proposal was not implemented.

"I didn't know about that proposal," a member of the Concordia student council said, however. "I guess that was lost in the shuffle when we replaced last year's

council." At the University of Montreal, officials also think the proposal should be presented by students.

"The request has to come from student committees or student services but the administration has the last word," said Dr. Jecn-Guy Hebert, director of the university's health services.

Hebert said he was confident such a proposal would be approved.

"It will be part of our campaign on sexually transmitted diseases that will take place throughout the year," Hebert said. "It will be debated during the campaign so I am optimistic."

At John Abbott College, health services say such a proposal should be initiated by the school's student services.

"It is not our say completely," said health services director Alice LeCouvrie. "School health falls under the mandate of student services."

Student services refused to comment, however.

"I don't want to be interviewed

on this topic," said student services director Leonce Boudreau. "John Abbott will deal with the issue when it is prepared to deal with it."

"If students don't feel the need for the machines and we do go through with it, we're not helping them," said Brian Graves, an executive of the John Abbott

student council. "You have to have a market and at this time it is not a major issue on campus."

The vending machines at McGill are being installed in the student union building this month by the McGill student council. Profits will go to a local safe-sex fund.

"We now see it as a necessity rather than a moral issue," said council president Daniel Tennenbaum.

Tennenbaum also said there was "no discrimination here" because the machines will be installed in both the men's and women's washrooms.

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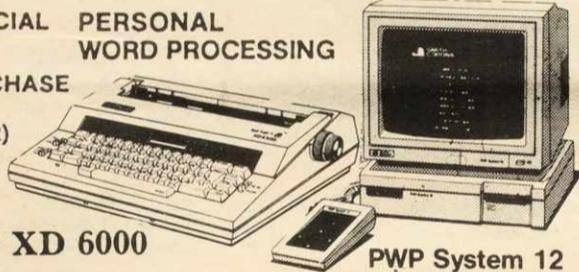
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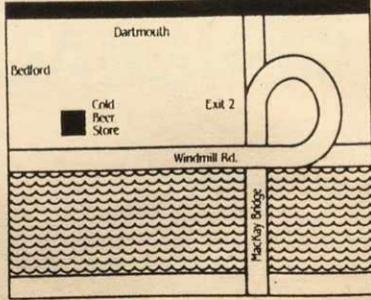
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