Condom machines await student demand

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 imp-

"We could decide that vending machines are needed and go to great expenses 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 coun-

"It's a pretty good idea, we should be going ahead with it as soon as possible," said Concordia council co-president Robert Doug-

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

"The request has to come from student committees of student services but the administration has the last word," said Dr. Jean-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 Dawson College, the response is similar.

"As health services, we support the idea that they install machines," said Mary Farrell, director of health services at Dawson. "But, to put it simply, it is a student issue, It is up to students to convince the college's management."

lege's management."

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 LeCouvie. "School health falls under the mandate of student serStudent 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 Tennen-

Stories censored

THUNDER BAY (CUP) — Students at Lakehead University in Thunder Bay opened the September 24 issue of their student newspaper to find the top half of the second page completely blank.

Their student council decided that two stories were potentially libellous.

"Our lawyer advised us that the stories should be pulled," said Shelley Lundquist, a vice-president of Lakehead's student council.

One of the stories pulled by the student council was about Lundquist's participation in a syring contereuse of the Ontario Federation of Students. The Argus said that some conference delegates had complained about Lundquist's conduct at the conference.

Kathy Jones, a student council vice-president who was cited as a source for the story by Argus Editor Terry Caddo, said she had never criticized Lundquist's behaviour.

In a letter written to Caddo after the stories had been pulled, Jones explained that Lundquist had missed some of the conference because she was ill and was awarded a joke award, ("the Phantom Delegate Award").

"What kind of ethics would I have if I were to condemn an individual for being ill?" wrote Jones in her letter.

The second story that was pulled reported that members of the Lakehead student union hired three of their friends for summer job positions.

Caddo said that the person hired to research Argus autonomy was a friend of Lundquist's who worked for three months to produce a three-page report "that should be entitled: why The Argus should be closed down, by Shelley Lundquist."

The stories were pulled after Argus typesetter Roman Romaniuk

brought them to the attention of Charlotte Caron, vice-president (internal affairs) of the student council.

Caron said once she read the story, she called the student union lawyer who advised her to pull, them because of potentially libellous content.

Because The Argus is not separately incorporated, the student union would have to pay the costs of any successful legal action taken against The Argus.

Student council president, John King, who was out of town the day the stories were pulled, said he supported the decision to stop publication of the stories.

"The newspaper is to tell students what's going on at the university," said King, "It's not to defame a person or carry out a personal grudge against somebody,"

King said the student council

King said the student council executives do not plan to read the paper each week before it goes to print, but Caddo thinks that they already are.

He said that although the staff

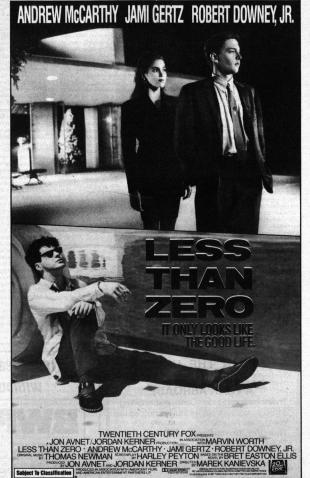
He said that although the staff drops the paper off at the same time as last year, the paper takes 12 hours longer to print.

"I really think the printer calls the student union and once they look it over, then it gets printed," said Caddo.

The Argus is still working on its plans to become autonomous from the student council, which would mean the paper's editors would be legally responsible for the content of the paper. The two parties have agreed to set up a joint publishing board as an interim step.

King, a former editor of the paper, said he thinks it might be a couple of years before the paper actually becomes incorporated.

"We feel that The Argus should go autonomous but it's going to take a while," said King.



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