

Paper pulled for photo

MONTREAL (CUP) — McGill University removed the first issue of the student newspaper from the stands Wednesday after school officials judged a photo in the news section to be offensive.

The picture show a woman's hand holding an erect penis. It was the reproduction of a photograph from an exhibit on pregnancy and sexuality. The original was seized from Galerie

Fokus by Montreal police last July 28 for alleged "indecenty".

Copies of the McGill Daily were taken by McGill's Physical Resources department during the night of September 2. They were returned three days later.

"I was on my way to the office when I saw there were no issues in any buildings," said Daily news editor Chris Lawson. "We had to call half of the university to find out who was responsible."

Sam Kingdon, associate vice-principal for the Physical Resources department, said the University acted following complaints from students, staff, and parents.

"It was registration week and there were a lot of people around," said Kingdon. He declined, however, to reveal how many complaints were received, saying only that it was "an administrative decision of McGill University".

"Clearly, the McGill administration feels it has more authority than the Montreal police," Lawson said. "After all, the police didn't feel that they could confiscate *Voir* magazine, which had also printed the same photo — uncensored."

Kingdon said the decision to remove the Daily from the stands was taken after "preliminary legal advice". According to him, the copies were given back because "there were simply some doubts on whether what was published was legal or not."

Kingdon refused to name the university's legal counsel.

"The story is simple: the university's administration found the photos obscene or illegal," said Kingdon. "I would suggest people see the content and the size of the picture and the way it was reproduced to understand the decision."

But according to Stuart Russell, the lawyer defending Galerie Fokus owner Ebie Weizfeld, McGill administrators had not right to decide whether the picture was obscene.

"So far there have been no charges laid and no trial has been set to find (the original photograph) indecent," said Russell. "For Sam Kingdon to seize a newspaper is outrageous, a violation of freedom for the press and a violation of the Charter of Rights."

McGill students did not seem offended by the photograph.

"It didn't bother me at all," said microbiology student David Daham. "When you look at advertisements in other papers, it is so explicit it makes me sick — at least this is not trying to sell me anything."

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