BC bans abortion ads from Heights

By Jordana Holland

As a result of pressure from Boston College administrators, The Heights, an independent student newspaper, has agreed not to run any advertisements mentioning abortion services provided by various women's health clinics.

In a letter from Kevin P. Duffy, Boston College Vice President for Student Affairs, the weekly paper was ordered not to accept any more such advertising, under threat of being evicted from its offices.

The demand was endorsed by Boston College's President, Reverend J. Donald Monan, SJ.

The letter to the editor board stated that the appearance of such advertising in The Heights was in opposition to the school's Catholic tradition and to the Church's stance against abortion.

The newspaper's first reaction to the letter was to question the administration's right to control the paper's advertising. The Heights is financially independent from Boston College; its only connection is the office space it leases from the school. The issue came up for renewal every June.

According to Paul McPartland, the paper's Editor-in-Chief, the editorial board was determined to fight the administration on the question of their right to interfere, and not on the abortion issue. In one of its editorials, the paper stated that the ads mentioning abortion services did not represent experimentation on animals. The Heights was given up to June 30 to determine the future of the paper, which was then scheduled to expire.

McPartland said that the paper's original intention was to move, it soon became apparent that moving off campus would severely damage the paper. McPartland noted that the only available office space is situated more than a mile from the campus.

In an earlier dispute, The Heights had gone off campus, but was nearly forced to fold, and had to return.

In view of the limited extent of the administration's demand and the fact that the paper is off campus, The Heights agreed to remove the women's reproductive health advertisements from the offending ads in the future, said McPartland.

ERRATA

The letter to the editor by Bruce Abbott, Monday's "The Spin," contains a typographical error: "Blackie" is misspelled as "Blackie." The reason, male chauvinism is just as unsightly an aim to state as it is to state of women." The words in italics were inadvertently left out.