

Bouncer acquitted of rape

NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. (CP) — A hotel bouncer in this Vancouver suburb was acquitted in British Columbia Supreme Court Wednesday of raping a 19-year-old stripper.

Murray Wentzell, 30, had pleaded not guilty to the charge and testified he was in the woman's apartment May 23 to deliver some photographs he had taken of her in the nude the day before but was unable to sell.

When he tried to leave, the woman undid his belt buckle and started to caress his stomach and pelvic area, he said.

Wentzell said the woman became upset when he failed to react to the approach and called him a good-for-nothing drunk. He said she then threatened to lay the rape charge against him, so he decided to keep the pictures in case she carried out the threat.

Wentzell's testimony was interrupted by an outburst from the complainant and his lawyer's address to the jury was punctuated by shouting from a Rape Relief representative.

In discussing the photos, Mr. Justice A. B. Macfarlane told the jury although they might be disgusted by them and think the woman was loose, it did not mean she would consent to having sexual intercourse with every man who came along.