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Possible Housing Shortage At Concordia

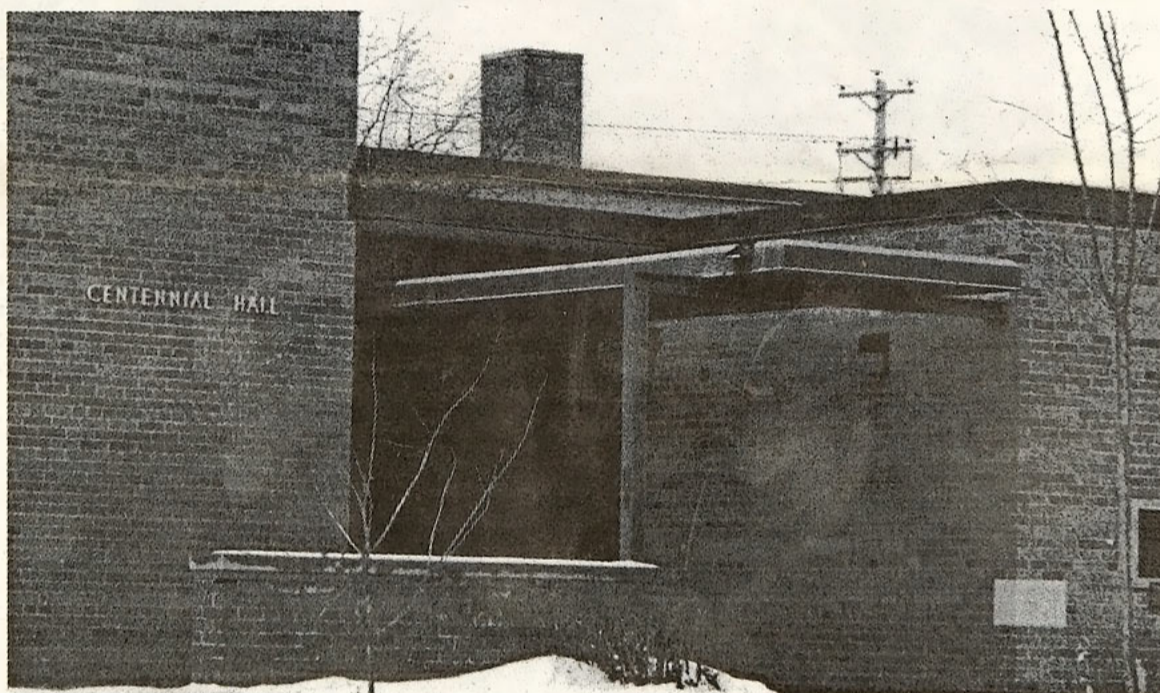
By Heather Sandberg

Recently, students, faculty, and staff met in tier one of the student union to voice their hopes and concerns for the upcoming years. Sharon Krueger, Director of Residence Life, stated that "Due to such factors as the retention rate, laptops, and the Division 2 switch, housing requests for Fall Semester 1999 are expected to increase by fifty students." The Residence halls have been able to absorb the steady climb of campus housing requests since 1995, but this may change.

Several students who live in campus apartments reported the services that were important to them. They liked finally having dial-up capabilities, the paid electricity and water, and the supplied cleaning products and toilet paper. The idea of allowing apartment students to be on a partial meal plan was discussed. Students also emphasized the importance the apartments have in preparing students for independent living by having some services supplied while others will be the responsibility of the student.

At the same time they voiced their frustrations with the current system. Some of their concerns were that they felt inconvenienced by not having a separate

line for dial-up, having to pay extra for cable (although the amount was figured into their tuition), and being required to be on the full meal plan even when the apartments have kitchens. They would also like to see the same phone system used campus-wide.



Centennial Hall may be used as a dorm during the 1999-2000 school year.

Photograph by John Hanneman

The actual plans for the fall of 1999 include some musical chairs - or at least a switching of offices and residence halls.

Centennial will be renovated into a men's residence hall, some three-person rooms in Luther will be used, and the LMC will be remodeled into more offices and classroom space. It is also possible that one of the campus houses will be used for office space. No one is exactly sure as to who

dents and have made the issue a priority.

There are no long-term plans written in concrete yet. However, an effort will be made to provide juniors and seniors with transitional living and apartment style housing. Future plans could include building new dorms, buying land, and/or renovating current dorms.

Centennial will house approximately forty men and plans are being made to order new furniture. As to the plans of converting Moenkemoeller into a residence hall, it has been decided that it is not possible to do because of the time frame.

Requiring a down payment for returning students when they re-apply for housing is a strong possibility. The payment would go towards the next year's tuition and would not be refundable after a certain date if the housing request was withdrawn. The goal of this plan is to have more accurate housing numbers earlier in the summer.

Krueger pointed out that preparing for next year will not be a cakewalk, but it is workable. As time goes on, more decisions will be settled and the process for finding a solution to the "problem" will be made.

will move where. Krueger noted that everyone involved in the problem solving has been thoughtful to the needs of the stu-

Students Explore Costa Rica

By Lisa LeGrand

Volcanoes, rain forests, dry forests, snakes, over 100 species of birds, and unaccountable number of hotels together gave Concordia students a well rounded trip to Costa Rica over Christmas break. The group of 15 had 13 days and 12 nights in Costa Rica. Costa Rica is about half the size of Minnesota. However, it has a diverse climate and wide variety of vegetation.

The trip was led by Dr. Robert Holtz. He led the group through the beginning class work and took the group on numerous hikes in the rain forest and alongside the road looking for different species of birds.

The trip even inspired Julie Longermen and Amanda Voigt to look into going back

to Costa Rica in the fall to study at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. They would take select courses studying Spanish, Costa Rican natural history and other Biology courses.

Voigt said, "I would love to go back to Costa Rica because of the diversity of the animals, and to learn more and see more things. I also think it would be fun to do a lot of research."

The group spent time at numerous places of interest including the following: Poas Volcano, La Selva, Arenal Volcano, Palo Verde, Monte Verde, Palo Verde Inn, and then Cerro De La Muerte. They began the trip and ended their trip in the city of San Jose and stayed at the Buena Vista hotel.



Concordia students who traveled to Costa Rica for almost two weeks in January for Tropical Biology.

Photograph courtesy of Lisa LeGrand