

NEWS

T H E S W O R D

Students, Staff React to Student Union Use Complaints

An open letter to Mr. Grant Bode and any who share his frustration:

The Student Union is a social gathering place for the entire Concordia community—students, faculty, staff, alumni, and accompanied guests. You may have read this sentence before, in the Student Union flyer I published at the beginning of the year. You may have also read that the philosophy and policies of the Student Union are determined by the Student Union Board of Governors, a board which has for too many years kept a very low profile, if any at all. Thankfully, this year, that trend has been reversed.

In the few months before school was in session, a small number of youths in the neighborhood periodically visited the Student Union, and asked for my permission to use recreational equipment. I granted that permission when I was in the building, and with the understanding that the privilege would not be a lasting one—it was subject to review by the Board of Governors. These few young people were very cooperative and respectful to me, and used the gameroom responsibly. It happens that most of them are also a direct part of the Concordia community, sons of students or staff.

Upon assembly of the Student Union Board of Governors, (late September/early October) I approached them for a determination of the place of these youths in our community—whether we should extend welcome to them based on their past good behavior, or tell them not to come on campus anymore.

The Student Union Board of Governors has recommended that a community-based program would not be in the best interest of the students who most frequently use the facility, due to the limited number of pool tables (et cetera) available, but that guests accompanied by a Concordia student are always welcome, so long as their behavior is befitting that of the mission statement of our institution.

Interestingly enough, on the date to which you refer, many of the above considerations were at work, and many behind-the-scenes activities made it difficult for an observer to tell exactly what was going on. As is clearly indicated on the college calendar, Friday 13 October was one of the days when there are a good number of non-students on our campus, guests of the Admission Department program, "Fridays at Concordia."

However, since you mention in your letter that they were

SCARY-looking people, I am led to believe that you refer to a young person more apt to wear leather, fringes, or thrash-rock T-shirts and strategically ripped denim. This may or may not have been a "loitering high school kid."

Earlier in that week, I took the initiative to interview the administrators responsible for attendance aberrations at Central High School. They are admittedly having a hard time keeping tabs on that many students, and asked me specifically to call and wait for the police to arrive—not to simply chase (Central students) out. Harlene Overgaard said, "if they're ditching class, they're ditching class, and if you kick them out, they'll simply move to the next quiet place. The Police, however, can haul them back to school or offer them consequences. When they break the law, we

prefer that they deal directly with the law enforcement officers." She also added that they would appreciate a phone call from me when such a situation arises.

It is most probable that the people you saw that Friday were in the group of Central High School students on whom I was keeping rather close tabs, with the aid of Concordia Security officers, whom you described as "crawling into a hole" and "having not said a thing to them." I had asked them not to.

Please let me know whenever you have concerns about the Student Union, or about equipment, or the way a student is approaching his or her work-study employment at the information or equipment desk. I wish you had spoken with me that day instead of writing to the editor of the Sword. I do, however, appreciate the fact that you followed through with some sort of action, instead of merely grumbling under your breath, trudging away, and attributing your displeasure to "life at Concordia." I think our system has a long way to go, but it will not improve without grassroots impetus provided by students and student leaders.

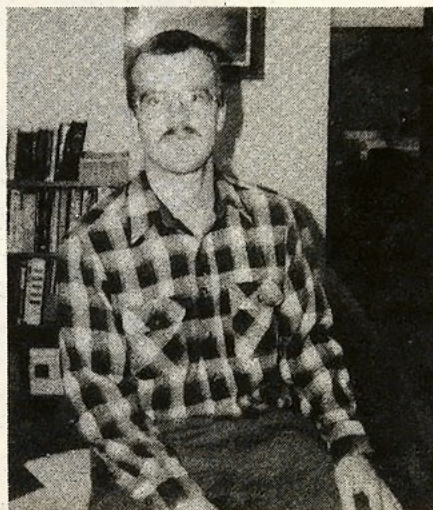
As a sidelight, two pool cues and one table tennis paddle have been damaged so far this quarter. The only person who has paid for the damages he incurred was a young neighborhood guest to the Student Union, permitted to use the equipment at my own discretion while I was working late one evening. He came downstairs with apology and cash in hand. Going by this track record, who *should* be permitted to check out equipment, ID notwithstanding?

Dan Asmus
Director of Student Union
and Activities

David Matthews Joins Faculty

by Chris Patterson

David Matthews, Concordia's newest mathematics professor, does not take much stock in a stuffy classroom atmosphere. One of his key approaches to teaching is involvement and participation: "Don't get me wrong, I believe the computer is a very valuable and necessary tool in this department but the student isn't going to learn a whole lot if he or she doesn't know how the answer came about in the first place. Participation in a math class isn't a very easy thing; involvement is the better bet."



David Matthews

Professor Matthews currently is instructing College Algebra and Trigonometry I, Survey of Finite Mathematics, Analytical Geometry and Calculus I.

"I enjoy teaching here very much," Matthews said sincerely. "It's a very fine school and I intend to stay here." David attended the University of Nebraska (his home state - he was born and raised in Seward) and was in the Peace Corps for two years following. He was stationed in Liberia, a country on the west coast of Africa, and taught math, language, and the arts at a high school there. In between his full-time teaching job here and his free time, Matthews is working on obtaining his PH.D. at the University of Minnesota.

"My classes aren't going to mean very much if you can't apply what I teach to real life. I believe in the application of material as well as in assigning projects. It really makes a difference. When a student works outside of class, he or she really begins to learn."

During the winter quarter, Professor Matthews will also be teaching Foundations of Algebra.

Student Upset About Missing Periodicals

Letter to the Editor:

Today I went to our library to look for an article on censorship that I could use for an assignment I had to do. After writing down the names of about ten articles and periodicals, I proceeded to search for them. I could not find *one* of them. Either the periodicals were missing or else our library doesn't carry them at all.

This letter is directed to two parties. The first party, is the library staff. It would be much more helpful if the ancient books in the library were replaced with

more updated books and periodicals. The second group, to whom my anger is directed more strongly, are those who find it necessary to remove periodicals from the library and never return them. Thanks a lot! Because you are too inconsiderate to think that I may may need to use the resources in the library too, I am unable to complete assignments unless I go to the public library. Why can't you just run off copies like the rest of us? Please think about someone else the next time you need to use an article for an assignment!

Genelle Clark

The Sword

A Publication of The Concordia Student Association

Concordia College St. Paul 275 North Syndicate
St. Paul, MN 55104 (612)641-8278

Vol. 25 Issue 4 Friday, November 17, 1989

Advisor: Nan Hackett

Editor-in-Chief: Shelley

Novotny

Business Editor: John Israel

News Editor: John Goetz

Layout Editor: Mike

Baumgarn

Photographer: Tim Bishop

Darkroom Technicians:

Dawn Stanek

Darren Anderson

Layout: Dirk Mattson

The Sword is published every three weeks except the months of June, July, and August by the Concordia College Student Association. Copies are distributed to students, faculty, and staff of the college free, and to other subscribers for \$5 per year to cover postage. The fourth 1989-90 issue is tentatively scheduled for December 8. Submissions are due by November 27 and advertising by December 1. Advertising is available for \$2 per column per inch for students and Concordia organizations and \$4 per column-inch for outside advertisers (Student Senate sponsored organizations receive most advertising at no cost). The minimum price/size for outside advertisers is a \$20 business card size. For advertising or subscription information contact John Israel c/o The Sword at the above address or call 612/641-8483.

The Sword welcomes letters and articles from anyone interested in writing. The Editors have the sole, final decision to print or edit any submission. Contact Shelley Novotny at 641-8818 if you have any questions or are interested in writing for The Sword.

Letters to the Editor are strictly the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the views of this institution, the Sword editors, advisor, or the publication as a whole. The Sword is a Concordia Student Association publication and not an official publication of Concordia College.