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ARA Committee to Examine Alternative Meal Program

by Jacque Gharib

John Goetz, Student Senate Vice President of Student Relations, is chairing an ARA Food Committee which is assessing Concordia's current 3 meal per day food plan.

According to committee member, Chris Roth, students have expressed dissatisfaction with the program. Chief among student complaints is the program's inflexibility. The program requires students to pay for three meals each day even though many of the 400 regular ARA diners are unable to take all three meals on campus due to scheduling conflicts such as jobs.

Dan Kleber, Director of Food Service, claims that ARA serves over 300 college campuses and that there are a multitude of meal programs available to CSP. He added that he is anxious to meet with the student representatives and CSP administration to devise a multi-option program which would meet the needs of all who utilize ARA food service.

According to Goetz and Roth, ARA has never stood in the way of developing alternative programs here at CSP. Rather, Concordia's past presidents were unwilling to consider program changes. Former President Alan Harre felt that changes were unnecessary and interim President Herman Wentzel tabled the issue, feeling that it was something for the incoming president to tackle.

Concordia's current chief administrator, President Johnson, is very sympathetic to the concerns expressed by students and is himself, ready to facilitate change.

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CSAL Grows As Dimension of CSP

by Shelley Novotny

At 8:00 on Saturday morning most of us are still in bed or at the best, watching cartoons.

At least eleven people are up and going around Concordia; the fact is, they are even in class. CSAL (Concordia School of Adult Learning) class #45 is studying multicultural dimensions.

Since the fall of 1985, Concordia has had another dimension, CSAL. Jean Rock said that when she came to Concordia in 1985, there were 43 students in five classes and now 800 students have passed through CSAL.

So, what is Concordia School of Adult Learning all about? CSAL Coordinator Dr. Elizabeth Bruch said, "With changing demographics of students there are more and more older students; with CSAL, Concordia is trying to respond to the declining enrollment of traditional students."

The students of CSAL start together in a class and stay together through fifteen months of learning. This is called the cohort mode and it can help with learning retention. The students are required to come in with at least 90 credit hours and as in "regular" colleges, are able to test out of certain classes if they wish. CSAL offers one major, a B.A. in Organizational Management and Communication. "We hope we can bring other programs in as we try to respond to the needs of the adult learner," said Bruch.

As for the students, they are generally older than eighteen and are already working. Most have 40 hour a week jobs and go to school besides. When considering the trials of classes, most CSAL students are similar to traditional students. One woman who is a secretary at IBM said, "Most of us are older and coming back to school, but we get the same satisfaction out of good grades as everyone else." Another woman stated that in the way that CSAL is set up they (the students) get to know each other really well.

Dr. Bruch stated that there are a wide variety of students in CSAL. In visiting Saturday's class, I found salespeople, secretaries and even one that travels internationally for a major company in the Twin Cities. "We are also trying to provide a ministry to these people as we work to generate revenue for CSP. We are part of the college," said Bruch.

The instructors of the CSAL classes come partly from Concordia, while the rest come from the Twin Cities area. They are required to have a minimum degree of a masters.

Although most may not notice, CSAL students are involved in Concordia life other than classes. For instance, I saw three students that I met on Saturday morning at the Christmas Concert on Sunday. In the words of one CSAL student, "The concert was wonderful, this is part of the reason why I enjoy going to school."

Minn. Private College Enrollment Posts 6th Annual Increase

From Minnesota Private College Council

Enrollment at 16 Minnesota private college liberal arts colleges increased this fall for the sixth consecutive year.

A total of 36,369 full-time equivalent (FTE) students began classes this fall compared to 35,613 students in 1988 -- an increase of 2.1%. This marks a 20% increase for the decade and the fifth straight year in which the State's private colleges have posted record enrollments.

The colleges confer roughly one-third of Minnesota's bachelor's degree's. Private college enrollment increases run counter to state and national declines in the number of high school students. "Despite a shrinking pool of traditional-age students, more and more students perceive greater value in the high quality of teaching at Minnesota's private colleges," said David B. Laird Jr., president of the Minnesota Private College Council. "Nationally we are seeing a resurgence of interest in the liberal arts as better preparation for resurgence of interest in the liberal arts as better preparation for participation in a changing global economy. Minnesota's private liberal arts colleges are recognized as among the best in the country -- our enrollment and the capability of our students bear this out."

The number of students transferring to Minnesota's private college also set a record. A total of 2,663 transfer students entered this fall compared to 2,337 in 1988. For those students reporting their previous institutions, 85% came from schools outside the Minnesota private college system.