

Dining rooms given 'pleasant atmosphere'

The UNL Housing Office has modernized the dining rooms in city campus residence halls to create a more pleasant atmosphere, according to Richard Armstrong, director of housing.

This year's dining room improvements didn't directly cause the room and board price increase, said Douglas Rix, assistant director of housing and operational director of food service.

Cold and impersonal

"Very little attention has been given to the dining rooms in previous years and the atmosphere of the dining room was considered to be rather cold and impersonal," Rix said. The improvements made this year may have surprised students because so many were made in one area in one year, he said.

Residence halls must continue to make improvements to satisfy residents and to appeal to incoming students, Rix said.

One dining room innovation is that students now serve themselves. Rix said salad bars, beverage dispensers and ice cream machines in Selleck Quadrangle are now self-service and he said he hopes dessert bars can be added sometime soon.

Less wasted

Rix said the new dining assumes two things: "One, students are the best judge of the quality of food they consume, therefore, there will be less wasted if the student has free access to selecting the inexpensive portions of his or her food; and two, a decrease in time involved in the plating of salads and later desserts requires less staff for serving the food."

"As long as any slight increase in food costs, like the self-service ice cream machine in Selleck, is offset by some savings in producing the food, then we can create a more positive climate contributing to greater satisfaction in the food service administration," Rix said in his report.

New dining room entrances and exits in three of the dining rooms were installed to insure that students paying for the increased services were the only ones receiving it.

Armstrong said although there are some bad feelings from students who can no longer sit with a friend who's not eating while they eat, that will pass and new students will accept the change.

The Regent's allocated \$178,813 in October of 1973 and \$300,450 in January of 1974 for capital improvements. Armstrong said \$145,643 or 30.4% of the total allocation was spent on dining room projects.

Carpets, draperies and ovens

He said the improvements included purchasing new equipment and modernizing the dining rooms. New equipment included serving trays, freezers, ovens, bakery equipment, a dishwasher, salad bars, ice dispensing systems, a soft serve machine, and potato peeler. Modernizing efforts included the acquisition of carpet, draperies, a decorative panel in Abel-Sandoz, construction of new entrances, expanding the bakery, and improving the athletic dining room.

The dining room improvements were centered on city campus, Armstrong said, because the Burr-Fedde residence hall is catered by the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education. When the construction of the East campus union is completed, students living in Burr-Fedde will eat there.

Press is 'maligned'

Journalists have come under heavy pressure from the government to curtail some of their reporting, he said. Jaffe said that at times even presidents have spoken to top newsmen, advising them what should be said in the news.

This was especially prevalent during the Vietnam War, he said, and cover-ups included the denial of U.S. Intervention in Laos and Cambodia.

"The administration has maligned the press," Jaffe added. He said about 98 per cent of the "scandalous news" could be documented from secret government files.

But journalists also come under pressure from foreign governments, he said.

Jaffe recently wrote an article, which the "Russians weren't too happy about," on a Soviet trades fair for police equipment. According to Jaffe, the Russians had invited several American police-equipment firms to display and sell their sophisticated equipment in Russia.

No crime

He said he could not understand this, since Russian propaganda says there is no crime in that country. According to Jaffe, the Russians wanted to use the equipment to persecute dissidents, intellectuals and Jews.

After the article was printed, Jaffe said, Congress passed a law forbidding the sale of police equipment to communist or fascist countries.

Shortly after writing that article, Jaffe went to China to cover the National People's Congress. He said he was amazed at the new advances made in China since his visit two years ago.

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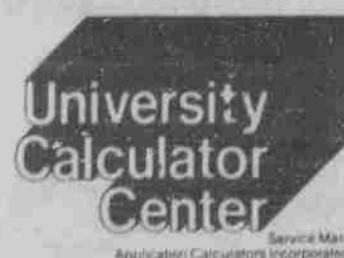
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