Alternatives for desk services sought

By Jim Klick

Since the announcement that Lawrence would cut costs by eliminating desk clerks on campus, there has been some concern about what services would be lost to students.

Three weeks ago, the Business office came up with one plan to replace the desk clerks. This plan would involve the installation of a central phone and intercom system for all of the dormitories except Brokaw. The cost of installing this system would be about $30,000. However, since the University is required by a government loan provision to maintain its present operating budget, the Business office and the Dean's office began looking into feasible alternatives to the elimination of desk clerks.

Donnelly apparently expected more input from his advisor than the advisor thought necessary, so that when the critique of the paper was minimal in nature, Donnelly became worried about how much advice he really was getting. Therefore, he was staying away from the advisor for fear of hurting anything that the advisor thought necessary. But when the advisor did not think I was getting the kind of feedback I expected, I didn't think I was getting the kind of feedback I expected.

Thus, I was left in a precarious position.

The major problem I encountered with my advisor was that he didn't think I was getting the kind of feedback I expected. Consequently, it was not very useful to have a meeting with him.

The other major problem is a misunderstanding on precisely what the role of the advisor is. This is my understanding that the major function of an advisor is to thoroughly read all outlines and drafts submitted to him and to give criticism within a reasonable time period. Obviously, my advisor had different thoughts on the role.

This lack of understanding as to how the advisor left the paper Donnelly attributes to personality. He never had a connection with his advisor before, and didn't know him well enough to understand his style.

Anonymous: “The major problems I encountered with my advisor were that he didn’t think I was getting the kind of feedback I expected.”

Barb Bill: “The problem was caused by the fact that this was a special case. The advisor was outside of my department. I didn’t like it writing a paper on a fence.” While originally the work was to have been closely related to the advisor’s field, the nature of Bill’s study evolved so that it was no longer as closely related. Consequently, it was not very topical to her advisor. “I didn’t talk to my advisor much. I needed an advisor to push me harder on things I didn’t know, and he didn’t. I met with him four times in the two terms.”

Bill felt that there were some problems independent of the advisor’s role in the advisor’s role. “I don’t think I did enough. If faculty members sign up for students, I think they lose the advisor’s time when they need it, like at the end.”

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Many of these problems, then, were I expected more input from the advisor than the advisor thought necessary, so that when the critique of the paper was minimal in nature, Donnelly became worried about how much advice he really was getting. Therefore, he was staying away from the advisor for fear of hurting anything that the advisor thought necessary. But when the advisor didn’t talk to me, or at least I had to expect him to talk to me.

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A question of honors

As can be seen from the statements made by Mr. Donnelly, Miss Bill and Anonymous in the honors paper article, a serious problem exists in the relationships between honors paper authors and their advisors. This does not appear to be so much a problem of malapropism or overt forgetfulness, but rather a misunderstanding of the advisor's role.

This misunderstanding takes two basic forms. The first form concerns the maintenance of a formal myth of common standards for members of the Lawrence community. What this myth implies is that all students are here for the same reasons, and that all faculty members have a common ideal for a liberal educational institution which allows them to differentiate in their fields, but not in their roles as responsible teachers.

The truth of the matter, though, is that this sense of common ground, of unity, is nothing more than a myth. The behavior of the faculty does nothing to support the actual existence of community. It would be fine if the myth were a private one to be followed by professors at Lawrence. Since it is not, and since its existence tends to adversely affect the students of the case honors candidates, whose need for very real aid in a very realistic setting, let us dispose of this myth and recognize the real existence of diversity, in all areas, including educational philosophy. It is not the role of an institution such as ours to live by myths, even if those myths exist for what are seen as the highest reasons.

Even so, the myth is still present in the system of honors advisors. Which leads us to the second, more specific misunderstanding. Donnelly said quite well what the problem was when he said: "I didn't know what he expected of me, or what I ought to have expected from him.

"The lack of communication seems to have been the one common problem to all three students' situations. It must be realized that the real point of an honors candidate having an advisor is lost if the advisor-advisee relationship is not developed. The ability to communicate should be a very real prerequisite to creating an honors paper. A student who is not interested in communicating with his advisor cannot expect the sort of that someone can communicate will be able to expect. On the other hand, it is just as obvious that an advisor who is not willing to meet and work with a student is doing that student an immeasurable disservice, and the student should do everything in his power to get another advisor.

The answer to this problem does not lie in developing formal mechanisms of honors and advisors to follow that would be unrealistic. In the first place, it would not take into account any personality differences or traits that may exist. And in the second place, it would only serve to fortify a useless myth with just so much more unnecessary rhetoric.

What is needed, rather, is just a simple understanding that without communication, without a working relationship, the entire concept of an honors paper becomes superfluous. It must be recognized that the only working concept rests in working relationships, and that individual needs must be met on an individual basis. That, after all, is part of Lawrence's claim to quality.

Doctor defended

Dear Lawrence students—

Here you may recognize me in my capacity of one of your parents, myself a parent of a college graduate, married.

You feel that the Health Center doctor is moralizing, you say, "You cannot possibly have the concept of your own physical well-being or so, to say nothing of your health, in the context of your very well being and/or hypothetic conditions by not living in the very likely physical medical risk consequences of our lifestyle.

If for instance any of the dentists tell me "You have very chalky teeth" had added: "We don't care any more people share with them, even all your friends who are highly, caries, or other sticky, suction inducing substances," or do not chew on jaw breakers, as they will only probably be breakers for you" I would face a prospect of a much more enjoyable life in the non-baffest distant future. I would probably have saved myself several absences and lost teeth (and, moreover, related work) and, excuse the expression, a few good dental money if I had not. In that ideal, I had nothing of that nature, and nothing of my current being without the assuming and unwanted advice, but maybe I would have had to keep that kind of a suggestion and advice that would be helpful to me.

Can you possibly imagine that your doctor may have seen cases of brain damage from general disease neglect due to emotional trauma from lack of medical treatment of disease, or lack of disease and destruction of personal relationships? Suffering examples of resistant strains of disease, insoluble problems with understanding the same into the system? Of course, ladies, the doctor's stress, is that you might feel different if you took, the turned-on men friends who have followed you (the appreciative that you have an objective, doctor, who is not acting as my sex as a subject.) You are not turned-on, but from your reactions, you have too many, sickly, hedged, generally up tight feelings than you know, when you go in for an exam. Perhaps you're not sensitive to the extent of this body tension, in producing unpleasant sensations. Perhaps you're not more, than most, your own concept or considerations determine your physical sensation you experience is not always going to be in complete control of yourself.

Maybe the real world isn't as always protective, always satisfactory as you have dreamed. If you're 19 or not, or if you end it, in a series of dramatic, fascinating experiences, may be included also of lengthening years and sometimes far-fetched or far-fetched, with the want of a more thorough understanding and in the knowledge, you might be more, that is, I might have, without my duties, a bit more "totalizing" and accepted the fact of today.

Or if the doctor who said "your nerves are operating in different areas" some 25 years ago had added: "We don't care any more people share with them, even all your friends who are highly, caries, or other sticky, suction inducing substances," or do not chew on jaw breakers, as they will only probably be breakers for you" I would face a prospect of a much more enjoyable life in the non-baffest distant future. I would probably have saved myself several absences and lost teeth (and, moreover, related work) and, excuse the expression, a few good dental money if I had not. In that ideal, I had nothing of that nature, and nothing of my current being without the assuming and unwanted advice, but maybe I would have had to keep that kind of a suggestion and advice that would be helpful to me.

Summer Housing

The Dean's Office has announced that University housing will be available for students during the July and August vacation period. However, it will solicit and make available information on housing arrangements for the vacation which may be known to members of the community.

Those who would like information should contact Mrs. Kestin in the Dean's Office to obtain the list of resources. No phone calls will be accepted concerning this.

Film Classics Meeting

See any good movies lately? Yes? Then come to the Coffeehouse on Wednesday at 9 p.m. and enjoy International films. Catalogues will be available at the meeting.

Policies

Water Pollution Problems and Perspectives: New Policy or Lost Cause? A public forum sponsored by Experimental Grants with the Department of Science. If you have any questions or suggestions, call Liz Mack, ext. 320.

Communication Workshop

I am organizing a Communications Week for next year. This will include two films, two panels and workshops for learning and practicing communication skills.

If you are interested, please contact me, Nancy Norton at ext. 328.

Campus Notes

Trevor Party

You're invited to the Trevor party featuring Flash Gordon "Conquers the Universe!" Free wine and beer will be served, and music will be part of the fun. The party will take place on the Trevor Green, June 6 from 7-9 p.m. for all the fun and excitement you can handle! sponsored by the Trevor House Council and the Special Events Committee.

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Travel Clothing

As many of you already know, our Spanish assistant, John Hunter, will be returning to Spain this summer for his last year of study. He will miss his last year of study for his last year of study in the United States. We would be happy to have him share his experiences with us. He will miss his last year of study and the last year of his degree. Catalogues will be available at the meeting.

If you have any questions or suggestions, call Liz Mack, ext. 320.

Incest: Win Not?

On Monday morning at 12:45 in the Palmer Kuchner radio show will feature Marc Charette. Marc will discuss the taboos of incest. WLFM 91.9.

Tenure review ...

(CG from P. 1, Col. 5)

A general faculty debate on the tenure guidelines.

According to Goldgar, the major concern of the Committee was that the procedure not be rushed. "The Committee felt it would be necessary to have the revisions finished by early fall if the final document was to be used for next year's tenure decisions," Smith anticipated the Committee's decision and will most likely turn to a second alternative: asking the faculty to nominate a Committee consisting of four faculty members and two students. "We've been around a bit," he stressed the delicacy of the work. "I hope they don't have public discussions. I hope this Committee gets together, writes something, and then exposes it to the faculty."

The faculty would then have to approve the recommendations of the faculty committee before the revisions were sent to Smith for acceptance or rejection.

Smith agreed with Goldgar on the importance of timing in the process. Under this alternative plan, the present policy would still be used for next year's tenure decisions.

Smith's greatest concern is that the Committee stay away from any "vested interests" of any individual or group in its deliberations. "I'd like to have as much of a dispassionate, objective look at this question as I possibly can," he concluded. "No matter what is written I'm sure there's going to be a lot of debate.

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Robert L. Vesco - well protected in Costa Rica

Editor's Note: The following exclusive article and photos are provided through the efforts of Allen Young, assistant professor of biology. He is currently directing the Lawrence-ACM Tropical Ecology Program in Costa Rica, Central America.

by Allen M. Young
San Jose, Costa Rica, May 21

Robert Lee Vesco, controversial international financier originally from Detroit, Michigan, resides in Curridibat, a wealthy suburb of San Jose. His large, split-level home is situated in "Urbanización Lomas de Ayarco," about one hundred meters from the Soviet Embassy. Vesco has invested very heavily in the Costa Rican economy through investments of at least $30 million. Vesco has benefited the country by providing many jobs at various levels for Costa Ricans. Vesco has also invested large tracts of land in Costa Rica, it may be possible to convince him to establish ecological research centers for scientists from all over the world, a service that would permit study of man's impact on tropical ecosystems. Politically, such a gesture on Vesco's part might be very wise in the sense of demonstrating another benefit of his presence in Costa Rica.

The issue of Vesco being allowed to stay in Costa Rica has become a focus of international concern. The United States made an unsuccessful bid for Vesco's extradition last year, and within the next few weeks, the U.S. will make a second try at extradition. It is not at all clear whether or not this attempt will be successful as Vesco has invested very heavily in the Costa Rican economy and has many friends in key positions within the government and political structure. Costa Ricans have not been concerned so much with how Vesco obtained his millions, but there has been concern about the moral image of the country to the rest of the world.

Later reimbursed the photographer for the camera. Virtually every day Vesco goes into San Jose from his home in minutes away, accompanied by two or more bodyguards to attend business meetings, etc. Socially, Vesco enjoys going to a night spot, "Le Club," which he built presumably as a replication of the "Beverly Hills Hotel" at Cabo Velas, built by Vesco, is large enough to land Boeing 767s. In all his vehicles and at both residences, Vesco has installed a complex communication system that allows him to communicate with the Bahamas, Europe, and the United States. Unlike anyone else in Costa Rica, the family television in the Vesco house receives three channels of programs directly from the United States.

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