

Letter to Mr. Lyphout for Reviewing Backpack Policy of South Dining Hall

November 23, 1998

Mr. James Lyphout
Associate Vice President for Business Operations
104 Hurley Building

Dear Mr. Lyphout:

On September 9, 1998, the Notre Dame Student Senate passed a resolution asking Food Services to revoke its policy of prohibiting bookbags in the Dining Halls. The resolution was in response to South Dining Hall's implementation of this policy for the first time in years, which leaves the security of students' bookbags threatened and proves to be an inconvenience for students. Currently South Dining Hall has open shelves by the doorway where students can leave their bags unattended and provides around one hundred coin-return lockers for students use. The Student Senate has worked with South Dining Hall in trying to make students aware of these lockers by asking each Senator to explain how the lockers work to their Hall Council but in some cases certain bags and other items do not fit in those lockers. Notre Dame Security has agreed with us that the current situation in South Dining Hall compromises the students' security. Though our suggestion that students be allowed to bring their bookbags into the dining hall before they pick their food out does compromise the security of their bags while they are picking out their food, we believe that the brevity of this situation is highly insignificant. It has also been suggested that students bring their belongings back to their dormitory before eating. While this idea may be logical for those student who live close to South Dining Hall, it would be an inconvenience for a student who lives in Carroll Hall or for the student who must eat on the run because of his or her schedule. Furthermore, with the end of the semester approaching, the chances of the theft of bookbags increase due to book buy-backs.

On September 24, 1998 the Residence Life Committee of the Student Senate asked Mr. David Prentkowski to reevaluate the current bookbag policy. Attached is a copy of that letter to Mr. Prentkowski and his response dated November 3, 1998. Mr. Prentkowski feels that since students do not use the lockers the security of their bags must not be a significant issue to them. This seems to be quite the opposite. As stated before, the Student Senate has informed its constituents how the lockers work and has recently suggested to Food Services that a sign be hung near the lockers so students become more aware. However, the Student Senate Residence Life Committee has been pursuing this issue since the beginning of the school year and based on the responses we have received from the students, will continue to do so. We find the current policy to be inconvenient and unnecessary. We ask you to help us by please reviewing the current bookbag policy. We will continue our current policy of trying to inform people about the use of the lockers. We thank you for your consideration in this matter and look forward to your response.

Submitted by the Student Senate Residence Life Committee

