

Closing library for chapel service protested

Concordia College president, students meet after 40-minute demonstration

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More than 50 students at Concordia College held a sit-in Thursday to protest the daily half-hour closing of the school library and cafeteria.

When the horn sounded to signal the college library was closing for daily chapel, no one left.

Richard Kraemer, president of the Lutheran college, said the college arranges the shutdown so staff, faculty and students are free to attend the optional service.

But many students not interested in going to chapel find the closing inconvenient.

"There's no other quiet place to study for students who really don't want to drop everything they're working on for 40 minutes," said Trevor Buzak. Others added that the limited study areas and student lounges available are packed and noisy.

"We respect everyone who goes to chapel, it has nothing to do with that," said Tania Buhlmann. "There's just a lot of us who don't go."

But even though most students agreed that the library should be open, not everyone supported the protest.

"The proper channels were not taken," said Shawn Irwin, athletics co-ordinator. "The same results could have been accomplished doing different things. Administration is usually quite receptive to students."

Kraemer said that following



Some students try to enter Concordia College library Thursday

Jim Cochrane *The Journal*

the peaceful 40-minute protest the student council president and eight other students met with him to discuss possible solutions.

"A more immediate solution," said Kraemer, "is to keep one or

more classrooms available for quiet study." Having a student who did not want to attend chapel work in the library for that time was also suggested.

Kraemer is confident that the

students will give the plans a chance. "It's a good thing to hear students talking about improving communication. Having a chance to chat and appreciate students builds mutual respect."