

Cutting Back on Spending or Creating Starvation

Taylor Harris

Western Illinois University has a total student enrollment of 11,707. The number of students who live on campus are 9,464. The number of freshmen who live in Bayliss, Henninger, and Tanner is around 1,000. As students, it's important that everyone has a balanced meal daily for breakfast, lunch, and dinner available. One way Western has chosen to save money is by no longer serving breakfast and lunch in the freshmen residence halls. They also do not receive dinner on Fridays and Saturdays. Having a C-Store in Tanner can be convenient at times; however, it doesn't open until seven in the evening. With all of these disadvantages, freshmen including myself have to travel to other buildings if we want to eat at meal times. This change has also brought difficulty to upperclassmen who live in the dorms that do serve three meals a day like Thompson and Corbin-Olsen. Nobody wants to wait in long lines for food.

Freshmen have complaints about the arrangement they have to adjust to. This can interfere with student's schedules. I interviewed a few to get their opinion on this situation. "Not having breakfast and lunch every day, or not having dinner on Fridays and Saturdays is very inconvenient to me as well as others" says Jeanette Tate. "Not everyone eats at the same time, and we don't always want to travel somewhere else just to eat. When the freshmen have to go to different residence halls to eat, they become extremely crowded. Not only are we becoming frustrated but so are the upperclassmen" Tia Vival also stated.

There are alternatives if a student chooses not to wait until dinner. The Union is open throughout the day where they serve Burger King, Sbarro, and Einstein Bros Bagels. Thompson and Corbin-Olsen also are available for breakfast and lunch. Although these places are open

during the day for food, who wants to go out of their way just to receive a meal? When the winter time comes, it will be extremely irritating to go out in the cold for food. Freshmen shouldn't have to be forced to eat somewhere else. I, as well as other students, have paid thousands of dollars to Western for room and board. Therefore, we deserve to have meals daily in our residence halls like every other Western student.

As a recommendation, Western should consider bringing breakfast and lunch back in the freshmen residence halls. Even if they choose not to bring it back this school year, having it next year for the incoming freshmen would be great. In addition to bringing breakfast and lunch back, Western should allow the C-Store in Tanner to open up earlier. Western will experience more furious students if they continue to take away meals from the residence halls.