New meal plan: stunning success or room for improvement?

**BY KATE MEYERS**

**CRUSADER NEWS STAFF**

Even though I’m just a tidy first year student who stick eating in Kimball every day, I can already see that all of us here at Holy Cross will be able to benefit greatly from the new meal plan that was implemented at the beginning of this semester. I have listened to the pitiful sobs of my fellow classmates mourning over the fact that we still can’t use our meals at Crossroads, but the way I see it, it’s a small price to pay for what we have ahead of us.

This January, Dining Services offered a new meal plan to current sophomores, juniors, and seniors that resembles the kind of “block” meal plan that already exists at many colleges around the nation. Through this trial run, upperclassmen were the given the opportunity to choose between three different amounts of meals, opting for either 150, 200, or 275 meals per semester. The beauty of this option is that, instead of buying either 10, 14, or 21 meals per week, which expire each Friday, upperclassmen can now save their meals for use whenever they want. That means that if you’re not hungry one day, you can use that meal to buy chips and drinks at Crossroads some other day when you’re starving in the middle of the afternoon. Furthermore, it is the general consensus that the food at Crossroads is much better than at Kimball, and it saves all of us that live on Easy Street quite a walk. Jean Saleebey, ’03, loves being able to eat dinner in Crossroads because “its so convenient to not have to walk all the way down to Kimball from the Hill. Plus I trust the food in Crossroads so much more, it seems a lot fresher.”

Another aspect of the new meal plan that I love is the fact that it allows us to use our meals on guests and also on friends who forget their cards. Who wants to have to pay $7 for their guests to eat in Kimball? I certainly don’t. Also, when someone forgets their card, the walk back to the dorm while everyone else is eating is out of the question. With the new meal plan, you can bring as many guests as you want, and each person simply deducts one meal off his or her semester allotment. You can also con your friends in to letting you “borrow” a meal so that you can eat with them even if you carelessly left your card in your other jeans. Liz Shoudy, ’03, loves this benefit because “its always such a hassle to find meals for your friends who are here for the weekend, now I can just bring them to Crossroads for some free food.”

There is one perk that already applies to all students. The meal equivalency has been increased from $4.75 last semester to $5.00 this semester. That means that we all have more leeway now when we go to Lower Kimball. I personally hate going over on the price of my food and having to put it on my Crusader Card, especially since I usually have less than five cents on it, so I think its great that now we have more money to work with. Martin Syvertsen, ’04, appreciates the increase in allowance at Lower Kimball because “now I can get my dates a soda to go with their french fries like a real man.”

Now women will respect me.” So, to all those who enjoy curls fries and eggplant parmesan wraps for dinner who are here for the weekend, now I can just bring them to Crossroads because “its so convenient to not have to walk all the way down to Kimball from the Hill. Plus I trust the food in Crossroads so much more, it seems a lot fresher.”

There are so many things that we want to see improved at Holy Cross, and now we have finally had our pleas answered by Dining Services. What used to be a constrictive system of meals in Kimball, which can sometimes be good and sometimes be not so good, we now see changes in the right direction. The new meal plan gives freedom of choice to all of us. Colin Hudson, ’04, said “I think its great that we’ll be able to choose where we spend our allotted meals. When I’m not hungry, I can stock up on late-night munchies, which are vital.” With this change, we should all thank the students that pushed for it, because now we have a lot more say in where and when we eat, which makes everyone happy. To all the first year students out there who feel outraged that we were left out of this new plan, I have a few words of consolation for you. Be happy that some kind of action towards change is taking place finally, and revel in the fact that we are the only class on campus now who will get to benefit from this meal plan for a full three years. Now all we need to see is the opportunity to use meals in the Lobby Shop.

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**BY MIKE SCURSSO**

**CRUSADER NEWS STAFF**

Being just a mere freshman, I realize that I must pay my dues like the classes before me did. But, I do believe that the new meal plan should be extended in some way to benefit the freshman class. The present meal plan is definitely a marked improvement from the old plan. It allows sophomores, juniors, and seniors to take advantage of Crossroads as a place to grab lunch and dinner. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors also have the option of going to a block meal plan that allows them to accumulate credit for missed meals.

However, if a freshman skips breakfast, then that meal is lost and rendered unrecoverable. Meanwhile, a non-freshmen in such a scenario would be able to swipe twice when he or she goes over the limit in Lower Kimball or get two meals at once if he or she were particularly hungry one day. Furthermore, visitors of freshmen have to either pay eight dollars per meal to eat at Lower Kimball or charge their entire meal to their host’s Crusader One account. In contrast, visitors of upperclassmen can simply use one of their friend’s stored-up meals and be swiped through without incurring any additional charges. In recounting a personal experience, Michael Meehan ’04 succeeded in articulating the freshman conundrum, “I had a visitor up last week and we were forced to order out to avoid paying every time we went to a meal. If I had the block meal plan, I would have been able to take my guest to Kimball.”

I realize that if the privilege of eating at Crossroads is granted to freshmen, it would cause numerous problems: Upper and Lower Kimball would lose valuable business that they cannot afford to give up, and Crossroads would be even more swamped than it already is because of freshmen flocking to the convenient spot.

But I do believe that some sort of compromise can be reached that would benefit freshmen without inconveniencing upperclassmen too much. Perhaps, if there were a freshman day once a week at Crossroads, when only freshmen were allowed to eat there, it would work out nicely. It would provide a day when freshmen could escape from the standard Kimball fare and experience something different. It would also guarantee Kimball adequate business, since the upper classes would go there. I also think that all classes should have the option of going over to a block meal plan. This would eliminate the possibility of “wasted meals,” as well as the major inconvenience of paying in cash for guests’ meals.

Undoubtedly, the new meal plan is a step in the right direction, but it is a shame that it is not available to the freshmen. All in all, it is much better than the previous plan, but there is still room for improvement. The current plan excludes one fourth of the school from many of the privileges that the upper classes worked so hard to get. Let’s try to continue improving the meal plan.

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**In Your Face!**

“Getting a leg up on my tan.”

-Katie Blaisdell ’03

“I’m dressing up as Batman.”

-Mark Bergemann ’03

“Your mom.”

-Mark Ryan ’03

“My daddy won’t let me go anywhere, so I’m staying home and roasting marshmallows.”

-Justin D’Elia ’02

“There’s no place like home!”

-Kerri Smith ’03