Food vending machines challenged by ingenuity of scheming Technen

The never-ending struggle between man and machine, in this case between Technen and vending machine, has caused the skills of both to reach unprecedented levels. Many students have taken the presence of vending machines as a challenge to their ingenuity and have gone to extremes to empty the mechanical dispensers of food.

The nine vending companies represented on campus have tried to fail the efforts of these students and at the same time to provide service for those who wish to pay for it. Among student complaints against the vending machines are: high prices, lack of selection, and poor food.

The vending machine companies base their prices on the fact that the machines must be filled at least once or even twice daily and serviced when they break down. The sandwich machines, probably the most expensive to buy from, are completely emptied and refilled with fresh sandwiches every day.

The soft drink machines, except for those dispensing bottles, use flavoring syrups which must be purchased at the market price thus doubling the cost per unit volume of the beverage.

According to Jay L. Harden, Director of Auxiliary Services, Institute rules require that all installations with the exception of those dispensing bottles, must be located in the basement.

The vendors normally employ the principle of least cost instead of customer satisfaction in the selection of their offering, although they do consider sales volume when filling the machines.

On the other side of the world

India debates choice of national tongue

One of the most vehemently argued questions in India today concerns which of the many local dialects should be declared the national tongue.

It is not as easy a question to resolve as one might think, for among over 200 localized variants, there are about 30 different widely spoken languages in India's own small Tower of Babel. Even the alphabet of Bengali (Calcutta) is different from that of Hindi (New Delhi) or of Marathi (Bombay).

It often happens that the only way bastions from India's two most industrialized cities, Calcutta and Bombay, can communicate to through the medium of English. English today is the language of the educated, the upper classes, and the businessmen. The most widely distributed newspapers in India are written in English. College and high-level education is almost completely given through English, simply because the most readily available textbooks and literature are English ones.

Yet only a very small percentage of India's population understands this foreign tongue, the language of its former colonial rulers. Emotional involvement with national identification and freedom from the British virtually precludes the formal establishment of English as the standard. Another reason is that most Indians can learn another Indian language faster than English.

There is a great deal of talk in the central government of establishing Hindi as the national language, as it is not only one of the most widely spoken ones, but also the native tongue of the New Delhi region.

But opposition is very severe. The Dravidian South of India is linguistically and racially very different from the Aryan North, and anti-Hindi sentiment is strong there that a southern political party, the DMK, threatens to support southern secession from the union unless this was heard this before? If the Hindi issue is forced.

Despite the great number of modern words in other languages that have yet to be created in Hindi, according to the Vice-Chancellor of Delhi University, India will probably see a phasing out of English in its favor.

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