Stouffer's airs commons ideas

By Harvey Baker

Stouffer's Company of Cleveland, suppliers of MIT's commons dining halls and other caffeterias at the Institute, held a dinner Monday evening to discuss their food and services.

In attendance were Mr. Larry Blishoff, Mr. Robert J. Radocchia of Walker Memorial, Miss Raven from Stouffer's, and other representatives of the firm visiting from Cleveland. In addition most of the Commons chairmen were present along with some house presidents.

In essence what Stouffer's wanted to do was to present some ideas. A prepared statement was read in which the Stouffer's representative announced plans for introducing new food to the Institute community, including pizza and soul food. In addition an attempt will be made of offer a third option as a main course for either lunch or dinner as many days during the week as possible.

Perhaps the prime topic of discussion at the dinner meeting (Stouffer's catered it) was the attitude of the people on commons to Stouffer's, the dining hall employees, and to the food itself. It was suggested that taster boards be set up that would meet regularly to sample the food being presented during a particular week, particularly those items which had not previously been served. The various commons chairmen complained that it was very difficult to get students to take part in such activities and, with the exception of when they disliked the food, it was very difficult to get them to say anything.

The financial questions of the improvements were also discussed, but any thought of an increase was met by Blishoff's guarantee that the Institute would not increase commons prices any more than the $35 per year increase being added during each of the next two years to meet the rising cost of labor and food production.

On a final note, the dinner served consisted of a vegetable salad with dressing, assorted rolls, shrimp cocktail, a large helping of a thick steak, baked potato with asparagus, and dessert. And oh yes, rose wine as an appetizer.

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