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### IAP

Remember that Friday, November 5 is the deadline for announcing IAP activities. Submit them through your yearbook editor to the following offices:

- The Session Office, Rm. 5-267, 1977
- The Freshman Class, The Tech, Room 10 (10-105). General public relations.

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### The Wizard of ID

A reporter has spoken to numerous people who use the dining halls, and a number of gripes have been aired regarding selection. One complaint heard repeatedly is the lack of variety being served. "Twice recently," groaned a student of the last week, "I tasted meat and parsnips and last week kohlrabi as the common choice." "I don't remember having my favorite entree in the past four weeks," added another student.

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### Commens MIT on $412 a day

**By Joel Bergman**

The Dining Service is rather concerned about student complaints. The MIT Commens Program at Cambridge is a $1,200 per year contract for 320 students to sign meal contracts. Since then, the price of commens has increased from $412 to $430 per year. This fall, only 226 people remain on commens as a result of a 1% increase.

The same trend is occurring in all of the Institute’s dining halls, though the decline elsewhere has not been as steep as at Walker. Figures provided by David Conquest, Manager of the Dining Service, show the following changes in commens participation:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>277</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>252</td>
<td>226</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Several items presented above require explanation. First, the Dining Service has 128 places on commens than it did last fall. This is easily explained by the fact that there are roughly 100 more students on the MIT campus this year as a result of the re-opening of West Campus House (345) and the closing of Rand Hall (93). In addition to increasing the Ashdown total, this means that the single students at MacGregor are to be less severe than they might otherwise have been.

East side, west side

Until now, students living in Baker, MacGregor and McCormick were required to take commens. For the first time this year, commens is voluntary for all of West Campus. Many people who had desired to leave commens now have the ability to do so—hence the drop-off on West Campus. An even greater loss would have occurred in those houses which have already re-opened of Burton dining halls.

Every year, the houses with optional commens have experienced a 15% to 20% decrease in the number of commens students from fall term to spring. When asked to explain this trend, Cantley said that people who request commens (both freshmen and others) sign up for commens during their first term. "We rely on the MIT brand security of knowing where their next meal is coming from. Once they get their bearings, a large number of the returning commens, causing the reduction in participation each spring.

Where has all the people gone?

With a drop of 230 students from the commens program, one might expect a corresponding increase in a la carte sales. Unfortunately, for the Dining Service, that isn’t the case. A year ago, Ashdown’s gross sales (at the register) were $4200 per week. This year, the figure is up only to $4300. The situation is comparable at Burton. Burton’s sales average just under $1000 per day — up only slightly from a year ago. Apparently, many are providing their own meals, either by cooking for themselves or by eating in Ashdown Wallake.

Various reasons are given for why students leave commens. Two most often presented are the poor entrees and the excessive cost of the contract.

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### Notes

- The Presidential Advisory Committee with full responsibility for the Old Chapel in Oral Medicine, a talk by Dr. Harry D. Gubler in the Student Dental School of Dentistry and Associate Director, Beneficent Dental Center, Thursday, Nov. 4 at 6 in room 194B. All interested persons are invited (for admission as Sept. 1972, are invited.
- Goddard vs. The Thing, Alpha Phi Omega’s annual UOMIC movie, will be shown Wednesday, Oct. 26 7:00 pm at 284 67 90. Admission price is 75 cents.
- Beginning Wed., Nov. 6 Lynda Benglis will construct a large foam sculpture in MacGregor Hall. The piece will be completed Nov. 19. The public is invited to watch her work.
- Wellesley-MIT Resident Exchange: Applications for spring 1972 resident exchange are available to 7-12 and 7-11. Applications are due Wed., Nov. 10.
- The mechanical engineering department will host the annual conference on the biomedical engineering topics on Tuesday, Nov. 8 at 4:30 in 11 133 at noon, and conclude at 4:15. Names of speakers and schedule will be posted around the Institute.
- EBODDOT MIT-Red Cross Blood drive will be held Thursday, Nov. 3 10 am-3 pm, and TCA, 269-450, to make an appointment, or call EBC ODDOT. Please give to others that may live.
- The MIT-Wellesley Upper Bound program, for high school students, will be held at Wellesley College March college, mid-March until early April. Applications to be filled in along with the Wellesley upper bound application on Wednesday, Nov. 8 at 6:15 pm. Sponsored by LIC: applications.
- A seminar/discussion on the role technologies can take in aiding environment will be presented by Robert Amberger, the Nuclear Engineering Department and the student branch of the nuclear society this Wed., Nov. 15 at 3:30 pm in IP 104.

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### Table: Revenue and Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Sales</th>
<th>Labor</th>
<th>Other Expenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct.</td>
<td>250</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov.</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>430</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>522</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**The Wizard of ID**

The Wizard of ID appears daily and Sunday in the Boston Herald Traveler.