

Servend attributes prices to vandalism

By Barb Moore

How many times have you lost money in any of the various vending machines on campus? Or are you one of the lucky ones who knows how to "play the machines" and, by engaging in a game of rip-off roulette, can obtain the most for the least money? Whichever is your status, you have probably been annoyed by the obnoxious inadequacies of many of the vending machines.

The MIT campus is contracted to Servend Sieler, for various reasons. One interesting reason is the fact that Servend was one of the few corporations willing to

accept responsibility for machine damage, and not hold MIT liable. The division of the administration that is responsible for "housing and dining services," is aware of the high incidence of machine hacking on the MIT campus, and values this clause of the agreement.

Servend also offers in their agreement, a relatively large portion of food per unit price. When asked about their profits from and problems with the MIT campus machines, Servend reports a large deficit due to students taking the initiative in customizing the machines to meet their own aesthetic desires.

This is a partial explanation for the much complained about annual increase in prices. In addition, as Servend is anxious to emphasize, larger amounts of food are served.

A major complaint voiced about vending service is the poor selection and the infrequent refilling of the machines. When the selection has been restocked, it takes a minimal amount of time for word to spread and for the machines to be emptied again, thus removing all hopes of convenient refreshments for the next several weeks of the term.

These machines are supposedly systematically restocked.

The chances of obtaining a first choice of food from these machines on any given day is miniscule; the chances of the food being appetizing, if it is edible at all, is even smaller. The candy tends to remain in the lighted display area too long, causing it to melt. The sandwiches must often be eaten stale and refrigerated, due to the fact that some vending areas have no oven to heat them. The ice cream varies from the liquid to the solid state and reeks of preservatives. The canned soda,

though, is usually excellent.

There are several benefits from Servend. If you lose your money in one of their machines and report it to the posted number, and you spell your name clearly at the sound of the tone, you will receive a refund. Packaged straws and plastic spoons are usually available, though not necessarily for use with Servend's products, and their matchbooks are also very handy. Students will agree that, inadequate though it is, Servend Sieler is probably doing the best job that they can to improve their reputation for incompetence.

MIT women organize, attempt to revive group

The Association of Women Students (AWS) will hold its first meeting of the year next Monday, October 30, from 4-6 pm in the Margaret Cheney Room, 3-310. The AWS is trying to revive itself, as it, like many other student activities, has been passing through a period of little activity.

The AWS was a very active group before McCormick Hall opened. As it was the 'governing body of women students,' and since all women students were required to live in McCormick Hall, the McCormick Hall government replaced the function of the AWS, and it was allowed to lapse.

Interest in reviving the organization was first manifested when a sizeable number of women students began to live in coed housing, and McCormick was not representative of all the women on campus. Women who did not live in McCormick, the number being in excess of 50%, began to notice that when anyone wanted to contact women students, they contacted only McCormick Hall, and thus the other women on campus were often unaware of events involving women, for example athletic teams. It is hoped that the AWS would be a central organization for contacting and representing women students.

Another attractive aspect of AWS is that it includes both undergraduate women and graduate women at MIT. This is particularly important, for many graduate women students are isolated and never meet other women students in their own department, let alone in any others.

The meeting Monday will not be a solely organizational one, as Sheila Widnall, the fifth woman to receive tenure at MIT, is going to speak on her career in science and engineering. Widnall, a professor in Course XVI, received her SB, SM and ScD degrees from MIT.

One of the most important functions that AWS hopes to undertake is the lobbying of various groups at MIT on behalf of women.

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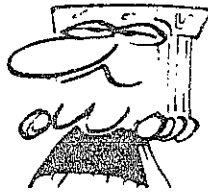
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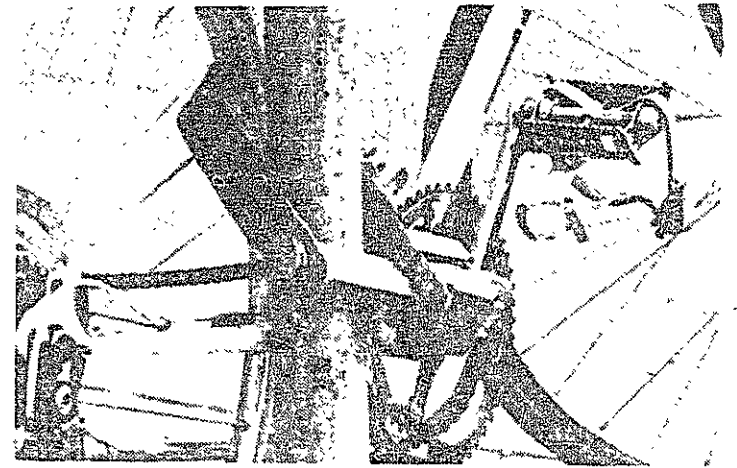
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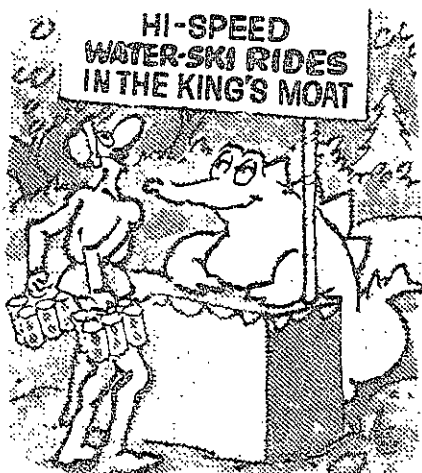
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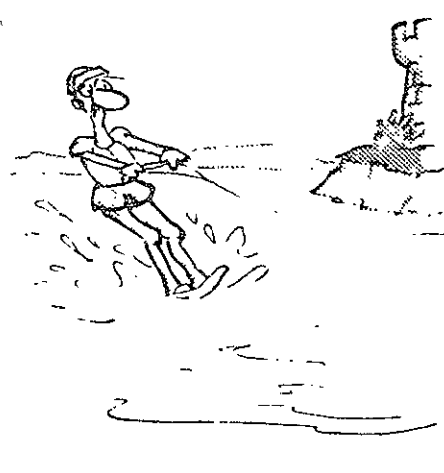
MORE THAN ONCE UPON A TIME



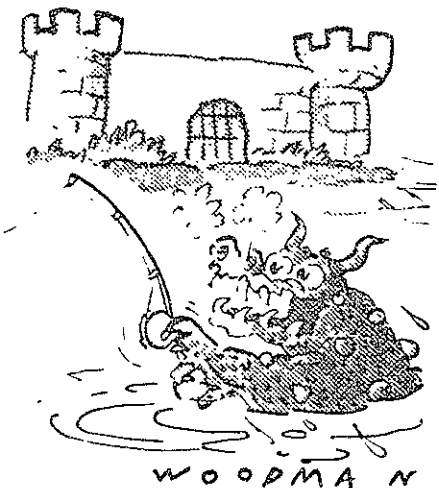
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