In Case of Insomnia

Cute Headline Number 24

By Storm Kasifman

Editor-in-Chief

The MIT student newspaper will be taking over from Stouffer's the day-to-day operation of its facilities on campus. This management realignment will not just save MIT millions of dollars, but also improve the quality of life for students. Students, the area of most immediate concern is prices—the cost of commons contracts and individual meals. The rates for the next year were announced two weeks ago (The Tech, May 9), and are expected to remain the same or even decrease. Improvements for next year, another year, these rates seem exorbitantly high. The President's Office will itself at about as average of $1.76 per meal (14 weeks of meals at $370). At that rate, it's even cheaper to eat within the system but of commons if you don't have the advantage of the unlimited seconds.

Director of Housing and Dining Services D. Eugene Berman explained the reasons why the rates are what they are. "We are really as high as we can go.

Even since MIT dropped compulsory commons systems more than two years ago, many as many people now as we used to use. This is because the fixed costs—opening week is where our food and staff, using and deprecating the equipment—will remain constant as there is a larger staff is required. The food is an incremental cost not as significant as the fixed costs are. So we will see utilization at MIT.

For example, Berman pointed to Harvard which operates a system with $500 (there are only about 80 students at MIT on a 2.1 meal plan). He also pointed out that of ten universities in the Institute (like Yale, Princeton, Cornell) that used to have no form of a compulsory system, it would be impossible to operate on these plans. There are too many students, and the Baker and MacGregor halls in particular require a lot more money to operate than the MIT. But for example, Berman stresses that MIT had promised not to attempt to hire anymore employees from Stouffer's, two employees, and will be considered with all other applicants. Berman stresses that the MIT gets the best quality food and the rates must stay high. Unfortunately, the system is presently in a circular situation where most students suffer from much greater absences than they think they are. The rates at the Institute might be reduced only slightly, if at all. Rates at Stouffer's the day-to-day operation of its facilities on July 1. This system but off commons if you don't have the advantage of the unlimited seconds.

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