Gray announces decision; forced commons for '84

By Richard Salz

Beginning with the incoming Class of 1984, new residents of Baker, MacGregor, and McCormick dormitories will be required to purchase scrip. The common program will be extended to all students. Students will purchase points redeemable in the dining center for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Meal values will change slightly, in that breakfast will be worth one point, lunch will be worth two points, and dinner will be worth three points. The new price schedule is as follows:

- Meal points: $1.90 to $1.30, depending on the quantity of items purchased. The minimun purchase is 100 points, with increments of 50.
- Each meal package will also have two options, a "no seconds" option and a "seconds" option. Both allow unlimited servings for breakfast, lunch, or dinner, but the "seconds" option allows a student to go through the line once for entree, vegetables, and dessert, and the "no seconds" option allows the student unlimited servings of vegetables and two trips through the line for entree and dessert.
- Additional condiments and some special items may be purchased a la carte.

The modification to the point system, however, is that points will now carry an equivalent cash value. The value of the points will vary from approximately $1.90 to $1.30, depending on the quantity of points purchased with the "no seconds" option. This change means that if a student spends two dollars in Twenty Chimneys, he could elect to use scrip, leaving a cash balance to be credited to his account. No cash would actually trade hands in this case, as the transactions will all be handled by a new Valadine computer system. Each student on the meal plan will have a new picture ID card issued with a magnetic strip on the back to identify the person. The actual transactions and balances will be stored in the computer, not on the card.

For at least the next couple of years, the meal plan ID will be separate from the present standard MIT ID, according to Gray. Noting that this was basically just a guess on his part, he then projected moving to one ID a later date, possibly after the student's accounts and other records are tied into the system.

A similar system would also be used for the scrip program. Students would pay for the scrip with their term bill at the beginning of the semester. They would be able to purchase amounts in blocks of $50, starting at $200 per term. Discounts will be given for larger purchases.

New residents of East Campus and Senior House will be required to purchase scrip. The minimum purchase is set at eighty percent of the price of the required "no seconds" option.

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Publishers sue Gnomon over copyrights

By Jerold Lynn Scalford

Seven major publishing firms have brought suit against the company Gnomon. The suit, filed in federal court in Massachusetts, alleges reissuing copyrighted material without permission.

The suit claims that Gnomon, a Cambridge-based company, is printing and distributing unauthorized copies of textbooks, and that it is doing so to the detriment of the publishers. The publishers named in the suit are Nelson-Hall; McGraw Hill; Holt, Rinehart & Winston; and Harper & Row.

Regarding potential liability of students, Strong said, "As a legal matter... I think it would be next to impossible to hold a student liable who had received something at the request of a faculty member." A source indicated that "there's been much更能 word given on add hoc basis" to faculty members concerned with the copyright question, but that the memo "will be the first official statement relating to the problem. This source also added that the administration will not be expected to act as a "police force" to enforce the copyright laws.

Many MIT courses list as part of their reading materials that can be purchased in a bookstore. Gnomon Corp. Supplies professors with works they want reproduced; students are informed that these materials are on reserve at the library or are purchased recording to an informed source, "If the plaintiffs in the suit win, that kind of thing will stop." Gnomon Corporation is a Cambridge-based company which does much business with students and faculty members of several American universities. Gnomon has branches near Yale University, Cornell University, Princeton University, Pennsylvania State University, and Harvard University, and MIT. When asked whether the suit against the corporation had affected operations at a Cambridge-based company, Gnomon employee replied, "It hasn't changed the way I operate."

The publishers who have initiated this suit include Prentice Hall; John Wiley & Sons; the Princeton University Press; Nelson-Hall; McGraw Hill; Holt, Rinehart & Winston; and Harper & Row.

The original Copyright Act was drafted in 1909. As technological advances were made in the areas of printing and copying, these protections became obsolete. The Copyright Act was revised in 1976; these revisions went into effect January 1, 1978. Rogers remarked that "the new law makes it much more clear when you are infringing."