Caring about MIT

It is truly unfortunate that the end of the second term coincides with the beginning of spring. It always seems that the weather gets more and more pleasant as finals approach. Friday, for example, was far too beautiful a day to spend in a library or laboratory.

The weather was better suited to perching up a statue in Kilian Court or watching the sailboats on the Charles River. Wading in the mud or sunbathing on Kresge Oval were also options for those brave enough to risk being attacked by runaway frisbees. The less athletic, however, could sit on the steps of the Student Center or Lobby by 7 and watch the world wander past.

Many people are concerned with thinking, but not the type of brainstorm which improves one’s grade point average. I thought about myself and MIT and how the two of us were getting along these days. Academics arc not the sole measure of success at MIT, however. The difference, I think, lies in caring.

Caring about MIT does not mean loving every person and place associated with the Institute. It is a much subtler feeling, a type of pride which inmproves one’s Trade point average. I used to be proud to be at MIT because I was getting my education here. I have some special heroes: students who work on their humanities surrounded by Nobel prize winners and presidential science advisors, students who are active in activities or living groups but prefer academic pursuits to sport, can’t handle drinks and rolls could be eaten. Students attempting to bring out food this way who had not paid meal points would be charged a fee, thus discouraging fraud on the system.

We believe that having a la carte meals as an option in Baker, MacGregor, McCormick, and the new facility at 500 Memorial Drive is feasible, and urge that this proposal be adopted by the Dining Advisory Board.

Opinion

Serve a la carte in doms

To the Editor:
The house dining rooms were established to provide a communal atmosphere for students to eat and interact. Under the present system, students eating in the house dining rooms are required to pay for a full meal, regardless of what they actually purchase. Students wanting to buy a la carte must walk to either Ludefell or Walker, which is inconvenient at best in an inclement weather. Buying a la carte at either location, although cheaper, deprives the student of the social benefits of eating in a house dining room.

Many students who do purchase meals within the house feel compelled to eat as much food as possible in order to get their money’s worth, often eating one large meal a day while skipping the other two. After eating such a meal, they are usually bloated for several hours, while the next day brings hunger pangs in the last hours before the next meal.

If given the option of either buying a la carte or using points, more students would eat regularly in the dining room, purchasing only that amount of food which they intended to eat. This would improve the social aspects of commons as well as allowing the students to tailor their meal consumption more to their own needs.

Certain changes would have to be made in the dining rooms to accommodate a la carte users. Beverages and bread, currently outside the serving area, would have to be placed before the checker. The salad bar could remain where it is, the bowls for it would be saved could be put to use. These changes would be accomplished by moving the checkers out a few feet farther, since serving lines at their current lengths can’t handle drinks and bread. Every time a student brought food out from the serving area, the valid line would be reordered. A la carte purchases would be run up with no problems. If a student had already purchased a commons meal, the terminal would show this, so that additional drinks and rolls could be eaten. Students attempting to bring out food this way who had not paid meal points would be charged a fee, thus discouraging fraud on the system.

Best way to maintain peace is to deter war

To the Editor:
I was recently rereading, for the hundredth time, the famous headline “US Military begins to disarm.” How many of you peace lovers have noticed this day? A day when the threat of nuclear holocaust would no longer be a threat to us and people would live without fear. Death and destruction would no longer overshadow us, but rather advances in medicine and scientific fields would surround us. The money that would be saved could be put into programs to benefit the country and its people.

This is a great anthropological ideal, but we must ask ourselves one major question. Would this utopian ideal work? If we turn to history to give us an clue, we are confronted with countless examples that say it will not work. Nations as well as people will always try to influence and impart their beliefs on weaker parties. We would soon be overwhelmed with (please turn to page 5).

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Editor’s note: This is a copy of a letter sent to Brian of Housing and Food Services Gene Branner.

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Dining Committee

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