ARA reacts slowly to institute needs

The year-long closing of Lobdell Dining Hall and permanent closing of the Country Diner inicorn has resulted in long lines and poorer service at some of MIT's other dining halls. Last week, the queue at Morse Hall extended from the front steps of Walker Memorial to noon. The snack bar at 250 Memorial Drive and Prattchit Lounge are the only dining spaces on campus open during lunchtime.

These troubles reflect ARA's passive approach to the problems resulting from closure of the M.I.T. Center. In response to the anticipated overflow of customers at the dining halls, ARA has set up a temporary dining facility in La Salle de Puerto Rico and installed a salad bar in Pritchett Lounge. John Ledwidge, general manager of food services, has said that ARA doesn't "want to overreact" and wants to "wait to see where the flow is." But in the meantime, the MIT community is being inconvenienced by ARA's unwillingness to implement urgent solutions to the overflow situation.

ARA should consider additional ways of alleviating the situation:

- Re-open Ashdown House's dining hall.
- Lower the mandatory meal plans so that students do not feel compelled to wait long lines to use their meal points.
- Extend daytime hours.
- Offer the students the option of purchasing bag lunches from their respective dormitory dining halls.
- Open More Hall for the full weekend.

If ARA is interested in keeping the MIT community on campus, it must offer more enticement than long lines and short hours.

Column/Thomas T. Huang

The tyranny of the majority

Imagines if you can the feeling of drowning — the anguish, the isolation, and invisibility. It's like-owl, but nobody has shown you how to stop it.

If the sea envelops you, nobody on this earth can tell you that you are isolated. You can't breathe, trapped without a lifeline to carry you to safety. This is how Dr. Anna Grant, an educator at all-black Morehouse College in Atlanta, GA, would describe the feelings of most minority students in predominantly-white universities. ARA grants at a minority education workshop at Boston University when I was working on a story about racism on college campuses last spring.

Over time may be in de-

...but a wall still bars minorities from working with whites. Unfortunately, most college students miss the boat of understanding the situation intact. Are really saying that minorities must help those minorities who want to keep their racial identity intact.

Because the number of minority students and professors on American campuses is so small, minority students encounter a feeling of isolation in aca-

...demic and social settings. They also feel an immense pressure to become white students and faculty so that they can succeed.

Grant said that, in her experi-

...enjoy black students are al-

most never inducted into honor societies. She said that minority students feel that most of their peers and faculty don't expect them to do well, and this dam-

...ages, as well as their self-confidence to perform. In other words, the academic performance of minorities becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy.

In view of this, Grant stressed the importance of academic sup-

...forted that the education at black colleges sighted their skills and advantages over predominately-white colleges: students can con-

...egrate on their studies and prepare themselves for the real world, while avoiding having to prove that they are black or white. They are.

In my earlier days at MIT, I looked down upon such self-chosen fates of segregation — all-black colleges, all-black living groups — for I thought students should seek diversity. But by criticizing such living groups as "segregated," we are obscuring the reality of the clustering of minorities, we are saying that minorities should assimilate themselves to whites — forsaking their tradi-

...choson groups specifically geared to help minorities fight such tyranny, I but it doesn't help." There does, however, exist an interesting correlation between the charged ac-

...tive network news programs, I will try to cover all three network news shows (NBC, ABC, and CBS) on a reasonably consistent weekly basis, Wedsends, Sept. 9.

All three of these news shows are: "The CBS Evening News with Dan Rather" (channel 7), "The NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw" (channel 4), and "The ABC Evening News with Peter Jennings" (channel 5) on

...ary were broadcast stories and the stories on the Iran-Iraq war were mostly factual.

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