Cafeteria Fee Hurts Graduate Students

We, the undersigned residents of Ashdown House, are writing to protest a plan to charge all students in Institute-approved housing a fee of $168 per year to offset the losses caused by four undergraduate dormitory dining halls. It is appalling to think that such a gross unfair plan is even being seriously considered. Under the large number of students living in graduate residences, as well as independent living groups and other undergraduate dormitories, would be forced to stretch their own severely restricted budgets to subsidize other students.

As graduate students who have chosen a career in academia, we empathize with undergraduates. Many of us have worked hard to manually construct both graduate and undergraduate lives by attending teaching assistantships to learn how to become better teachers, by interacting with undergraduates in activity, religious, or social groups, or by personally reaching out and offering support, technical knowledge, and encouragement as students who have "been there." We wish to correct the current depiction of graduate students as people with extra money to burn. For most of us, attending graduate school is a major financial struggle. In order to pay for books, living expenses, and tuition, we need any and all of the extra jobs or loans and deplete savings accounts that may have been bulked up from working before attending school.

If the plan to subsidize the dormitory dining system is implemented, we believe many students would immediately leave the Institute housing system, forking both the convenience of living on campus and the fairly sizable community we've managed to build.

In these recessionary years, the local rental market is already competitive with on-campus support for free. Little difference the financial loss in the housing system would far outweigh any gain to the dining system.

We are aware that the dining system is not making loss of money with the high prices already charged. We support the recent Tech column which suggested that ARA restructuring dining schedules and possibly expand central locations to better accommodate student schedules. Perhaps community kitchens would work better in dormitories, by offering students the opportunity to prepare their own food at any convenient time of day for significantly less money.

Kathy Measants, G and 48 others

Imposes Financial Burden

The administration has done it again. Not only have they ignored our opinions on ARA, they seem to have deliberately ridden a course of action exactly opposite of what the majority of MIT undergraduates want and need. The new Soul Plus penalizes those, like myself, who are unable to save money. If Tech only eat at Lolli or other any dining hall, you can easily spend $10 a day on food. If you are lucky enough to live in a dorm with a kitchen, you can eat fairly well on $25 per week. Over the course of the year, cooking for yourself can save over $1,000. Of course, you do have to spend time preparing the food, but most of us realize that I know, we are able to attend this place because our parents scraped and saved, and for us, we are more than happy to spend a little bit of time so we don't have to go $4,000 more in debt.

Knell Beery '95

Croatia Suffers

Under Yugoslav Rule

We are the Croatian community in the United States. What is the Croatian community? We are the people who have been fighting for the freedom of the people from the state of Croatia, which is located in what used to be Yugoslavia, near Italy and Austria. We, the people of Croatia, have dared to do what the United States did in 1776: demand our freedom, our independence, and an end to foreign occupation.

For that declaration of independence, we have paid a heavy price. Almost half of our country has been destroyed by the Yugoslav-Communist Army, which is not only overwhelmingly better equipped than our army, but is protected by the most powerful army in the world.

As the result of our fight for freedom, 13 centuries of our history and culture were destroyed, and tens of thousands of people were killed and still prisoners of the Yugoslav government. One fifth of our population is homeless.

What grrnotically hurts Americans of Croatian descent is that President Bush, in his recent trip to Mediterranean countries, showed no respect for the Yugoslav government using force to keep the country together. Perhaps this is the first you have heard of our plight. The reasons for this are simple: we have no oil, no nuclear weapons, no chemical weapons, no cash crops, and no exports of importance. We can replace disposables with good-old-fashioned reusables. We can reuse solutions with hazardous ingredients. Only buy the amount of institutional food, and purchase good old-fashioned reusables. We can return disposables with good-old-fashioned reusables.

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