Deal of Student Service Card Deck Reveals Jokers

Column by Mark P. Hurst
STAFF REPORTER

Something in my mailbox the other day made me scream. Packed in a white envelope, it held one of another Coop rebate of $0.82 — but it was nothing of the sort. The hideous items I withdrew from the envelope was yet another installment in the comedy we have all come to know as MIT Food Service. (For that slogan: Reality, Our Prices Are Reasonable.) It was yet another meal card.

For those of you keeping track, this is the third card we have received this year. But many of you aren’t keeping track. That is why I, a hard-working columnist, have made it my American duty to address this crucial matter: Why You Really, Absolutely Need Yet Another Card.

Let’s do a quick Cards In Review for the year. In September we all affixed our registration stickers to our Old Card, the ID card we’ve used since freshmen year. Magnetic stripe, photo, and a spot for the athletic sticker.

Things soon got better when we got the New Card (at this point, “the Old New Card”). This winner had the notable improvement of not containing a photo, registration sticker, or athletic sticker. The Old New Card was much better than the Old Old card, since it could be used for unlocking some doors some of the time (for maxis, some of the time) and for buying lots of overpriced food on its Mag- netic Stripe. It also has the value added service (for you ARA types, a “Vaa-U-Service”) that students could use stolen Old New Cards without that hassle of getting identified.

Jump to the present: the New New Card. It has a New New Magnetic Stripe, which is finally used to open more doors more of the time, and a New Photo, which is really an Old Photo, having been taken from the Old Old Card, but no athletic sticker, which is still on the Old Old Card. So if you want to buy an overpriced lunch and then work it off in the gym, you have to carry the Old Old Card and the New New Card.

Please, don’t laugh. We have these cards because printing this many in one year costs a lot of money, which digs the Food Service deeper in debt, then allowing Lobdell a great excuse to raise its prices. There are also important economic reasons for all these cards. I am not privy to the mysterious and wonderful dealings of the Food Service, but I imagine it’s something along the lines of: “The more cards they have to carry around, the more overpriced lunches they will buy.”

As for the Old New Card, and the Old Old Card, and the New New Card, and the New New Magnetic Stripe, which is still on the New New Card, and the athletic sticker, which is still on the Old Old Card. So if you want to buy an overpriced lunch and then work it off in the gym, you have to carry the Old Old Card and the New New Card. And what of Mike Evans? He holds the position of the Undergraduate Association leader is also responsible for picking an Electoral Committee for the write-in ticket of David Letterman and Regis Philbin. I know that this is a rather amazing responsibility which I am not privy to, but it is my understanding that he has picked these two candidates.

For these reasons, I cannot vote for either team. I do not intend to deny all responsibility and simply skip the election. By the time you read this, I will probably have voted on Athena for the write-in ticket of David Letterman and Regis Philbin. I know that this is a rather amazing responsibility, which I am not privy to, but it is my understanding that I am throwing away my vote. But given this year’s election choices, it is my best choice.

Darin S. Kinion ‘94

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— note that I do not say “has been active in the UA.” He was chairman of the UA Safe- ty Committee in the months before the murder of Yngve K. Raustein ’94. Did he take this opportunity to push safety issues with the administration? No. In fact, Page’s absence has been so noticeable that, after repeated phone calls and electronic mail messages, the UA Executive Committee voted unanimously to suspend him. As hard as it is to get the UA to admit that we are not as close to the intricacies of the Undergraduate Association and its relation to the Office of the Dean for Undergraduate Education and Student Affairs, we feel that the overall purpose of the UA is to solicit and compile student opinions and ideas and facilitate the process of bringing these opinions and ideas to the attention of the MIT Administration.

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We would like to reaffirm our stances on the issues that have surfaced so far in the campaign.

Financial Responsibility: We would like to reiterate our commitment to the principle that under-graduate associations should see a return on every dollar spent by the UA. We want to free up more money for other student groups and class councils.

We plan to use the majority of the Van- nevar Bush ’16 fund for a project that will have long-lasting benefit for the MIT commu- nity. We have been labeled “thoughtless” in our desire to make the Financial Board more independent of the UA. We fully understand the long-term implications of our position and we stand by it. Flatshare should allocate

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The Nominations Committee will be holding interviews on Saturday, March 12 and Sunday, March 13 for the following committees:

- ROTC Committee
- Committee on Foreign Scholarships (COFS)
- Planning Committee for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Activities
- MIT-Wellesley Joint Committee
- UA Financial Board
- Medical Consumers’ Advisory Council (MCAC)
- HASS Committee
- Equal Opportunity Committee (EOC)
- Committee on the Library System (COLS)
- Committee on the Writing Requirement (CWR)
- Committee on Academic Performance (CAP)
- Committee on Curricula (COC)
- Committee on Discipline (COD)
- Committee on Student Affairs (CSA)
- Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Financial Aid (CUAFA)
- Committee on the Undergraduate Program (CUP)
- Faculty Policy Committee (FPC)

Applications are available outside the UA Office (W20-401). For more information about Institute Committees, search for Nominations using TechInfo from any Athena workstation.