

More Food

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10) Drinks are not included with the specials and you can buy milk cheaper at K-Mart than you can here. Milk costs us more than the pop does.

From now on a beverage will be included with the specials.

11) We pay 40¢ a cup for coffee or tea.

That's a little high and you don't even get a second cup free.

We've ordered different cups from the supplier. They are much larger (10oz) cups which will cost 50¢, so you're getting more.

12) Why does toasted bread cost 10¢ extra?

It's on the price list and that's the way I inherited it.

13) Many people are running out of 5¢ coupons.

Just go and get your next book. If at the end of the semester you're still out of nickels, then we'll sell you part of a book.

13b) Why have 3 or 4 books of 30¢ coupons on the go just because you are out of nickels? I'll check with the printer and see if he can print up some additional coupon books containing only nickel coupons, in smaller books where you can trade in 30¢ coupons for these books.

14) What can be done if I lose a book of tickets? Report it to the office and if it doesn't show up between now and the end of the term, we might be able to work something out.

15) If you have books or parts of books left over at the end of the term, what can be done with them? You can sell them or if you come in, we can sell you turkeys, cans of pop, any reasonable request we can get you a price on to take home with you or to store until next semester.

16) If you buy a book from someone, can't the person then claim that it was stolen? If you sell or buy a book, simply inform the cafeteria office. Then they will know that it's been sold.

If you paid attention at the beginning of this article, I stated that there were 17 points and yet I've only listed 16.

(Sounds like our missing \$100). The final issue was the reason that most of the students had attended the meeting: the coupon plan

itself. The students generally went in feeling that they got "ripped off" of \$120 and that the coupons they were given were not sufficient to last through to the end of the term. Jim Griffith stated that he agreed with 90% of the things that the students had already stated. He then went on to explain the rationale that was used in selecting this particular food plan:

"Whether you accept it or not, that's a decision you'll have to make... for the past three years in particular, the cost of feeding the number of resident students, because it has been dwindling below 200, has been rising... the way it used to be, you paid a lump sum, and it was unlimited seconds. That eliminated about 1300 people on campus using the cafeteria... the only way to open the cafeteria up to the entire campus community was to switch to a totally cash operation... So we had to come up with a plan that would be acceptable to them (the residents in Marian and Bernadine) and at the same time allow anyone to come in and pay cash. Last year we had a script plan where we issued phony money... The students who went home on the weekends complained bitterly for a number of years that they were tired of paying for meals when they weren't here to eat them... So we took into consideration that over a period of 10 to 11 years, we found that only 15% of the students eat breakfast every day and 80% of the students go home every weekend... These statistics are compiled from people passing through the cafeteria. We selected the coupon plan basically because we felt it was the most economical, and it was the most suitable for the most people who live in residence. Never once did we assume that when you add that amount of money could you eat every meal, every week, in the dining hall. What we did assume is that most of you would get along with a book every two weeks. For everybody who needs more than that, we offer extra books which would have to

be purchased. Because what we're saying is that if you eat more, you have to pay more.... The major problem on most people's minds is that we don't have enough money for what we paid for to get us through to the end of the year. And some of you don't, but I'm still willing to bet that the people who have established here for the last 12 or 13 years... the idea of who is going to suffer the most is the student who stays 7 days a week. And yes, the student who stays 7 days a week is not going to have sufficient money and that will effect a number of people."

Fine, but still irritating a number of students at the meeting was the issue of overhead. Resident students pay overhead in their initial fees, so why is overhead charged on cafeteria prices as well? Do we foot the bill for everyone? Of course not, but that's the way it looks. So Mr Griffith went on:

".... again we make the assumption that the students in residence, 70% of their meals will consist of the specials.... Those people who come in and buy a la carte, most of them are not resident students. And that was the rationale behind the prices, so that the people who pay cash also share in that overhead. Obviously we can't reduce everything we sell... If I come in and buy the special, a resident student can come in and buy the same thing cheaper. You are not paying the overhead for everybody. You're paying a percentage of it. Primarily we have a cafeteria on campus because we have resident students. Therefore,

a greater percentage of that overhead is going to be borne by the people who move in. We've tried to center in on the weekends and try to put the greatest dollar savings on the weekend meals."

Finally, the point was raised that the students were never really informed of this new plan. We might not have been so upset if we had known about it before hand and had the time to allot for the extra expense. In the catalog it says "room and board". Not "room and board 5 days a week", or "you're expected to go home on the weekends." Supposedly a letter was mailed out with the catalogs explaining the new program. Many of those letters were never received. Some still haven't come. "I do feel we make a mistake in trying to explain the program and I'm not going to try and hide that fact" said Jim Griffith. "The one thing I'm not going to fool you on is that we are not going to give each and every student in residence an extra hundred dollars, or more coupons unless you pay for them."

Griffith stated at the meeting that if you pay the business office \$100.00, they will give you 2 more books of tickets. That's a \$25.00 savings (each book is worth \$62.50), but you still have to pay for them."

After the meeting was over, I understood. I understood that since I am not an Islander, and I am going to be here every day for the next 7 months, I am not going to have enough money. So before I ran to wire home for funds and care packages, I went to see Mr. Griffith.

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