

Food for Thought

Students want quality food for their money

-TODAY'S SPECIAL- PIZZA

ANTIOCH...	1.60
LAKE FOREST...	1.75
ZION...	1.25
MUNDELEIN...	1.50
GRANT...	2.00
ST. CHARLES EAST...	3.50
GLENBROOK NORTH...	2.00
WAUCONDA...	1.50

For the last few years, students at Antioch Community High School have wondered about the lunch service they get and how it compares with the service of other high schools in the area.

Ever since Arbor Foods took over lunch food operations in 1999, students have questioned the quality of food they receive and the price of the food they pay for.

How does food at ACHS compare with food from local high schools? What do stu-

dents at other schools pay for lunches? What options are there for ACHS as far as food services go?

STUDENTS SOUND OFF

Marriott, the former food service at ACHS, prepares the food at Glenbrook North High School. One of the lunch room highlights at Glenbrook is the sandwich stand, where a student can get any assortment of breads, meats, and cheeses put together to make a sandwich, right in front on him.

"I can get a sandwich, drink, and a snack for about \$4. The sandwich is very good and worth the \$4 I spend on it," said Rusty Robertson, a junior at Glenbrook.

Also at Glenbrook is the "Chef's Special" where students can get spaghetti, Salisbury steak, or anything else the chefs are cooking up, depending on what day it is. The special, along with a carton on milk is \$1.50. The lunch room at Glenbrook also serves hot dogs, burgers, fries and pizza. Pizza is served by Papa John's and costs \$2.

"I don't get those types of food because it tastes like nasty processed cafeteria food," said Robertson.

At St. Charles East High School, which is housed at Wredling Middle School because of mold problems, ARA Company prepares the food. The same sort of food is served at St. Charles East as Glenbrook, but the prices vary. At St. Charles, the deli

sandwiches are not prepared in front of the students but cost \$2 less than they do at Glenbrook. However, one pizza slice costs students \$3.50, and if a student adds fries and a drink, the total bill is \$5.

"It's totally ridiculous, the pizza isn't that great at all. The sauce is too sweet, and the cheese falls off," said Ted Mulvey, junior at St. Charles East.

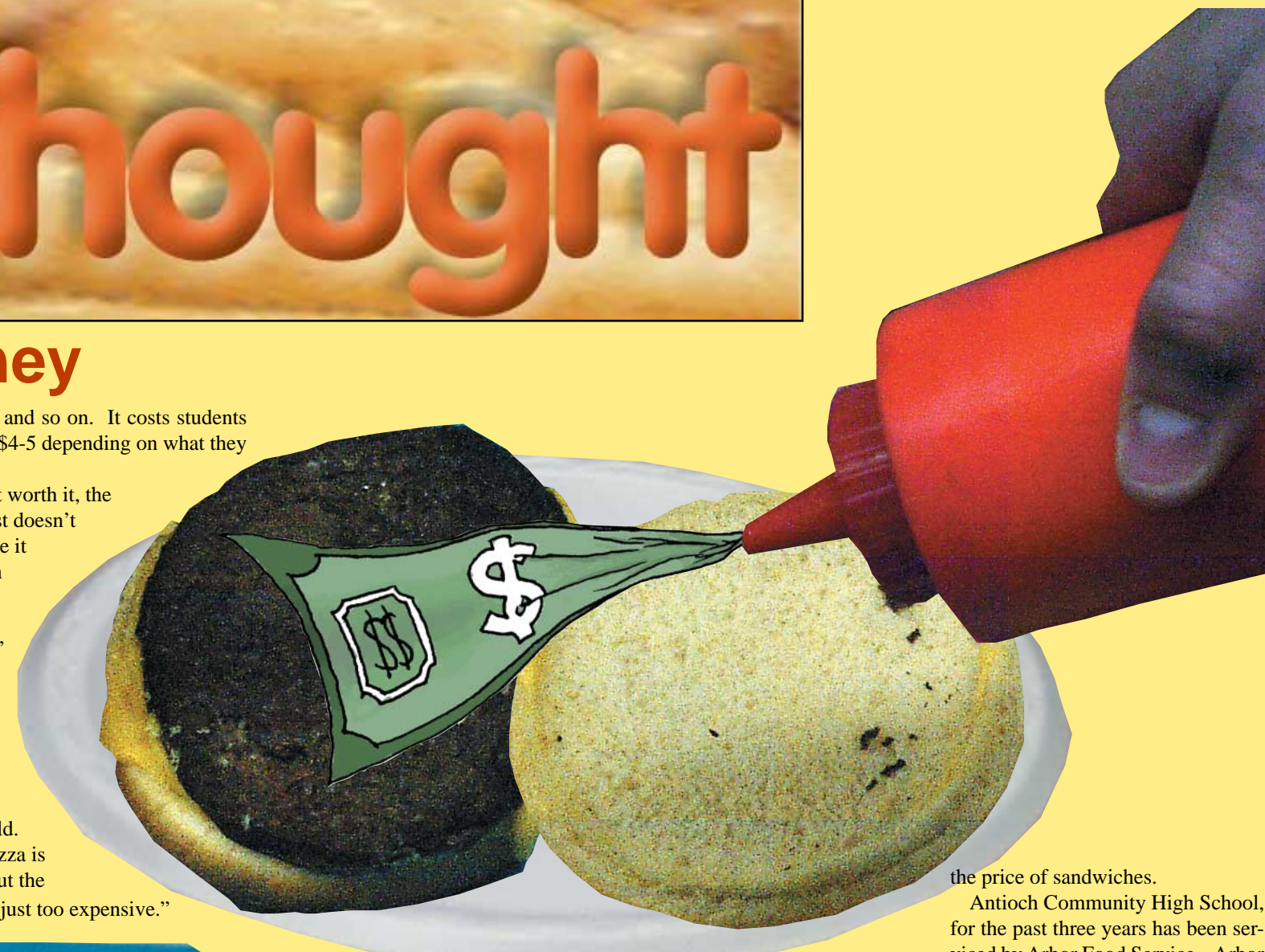
Regarding the expensive lunch food, Mulvey said that parents have complained to the school board, but the school board has done nothing to relieve the cost of food for students.

Marriott also serves food at Deerfield High School. At Deerfield, the favorite item is the "Special" where, depending on the day, students can chose from a deli sandwich, pasta,

nachos, and so on. It costs students around \$4-5 depending on what they order.

"It's not worth it, the food just doesn't taste like it is worth that much money," said John Gatto, a senior at Deerfield.

"The pizza is good, but the price is just too expensive."



the price of sandwiches.

Antioch Community High School, for the past three years has been serviced by Arbor Food Service. Arbor services K-12 schools with multiple accounts in Illinois. "Prices are set with the school district, as well as what is offered on the menu," said David Gauger, regional vice president of Arbor Food operations.

Arbor Food satisfies hunger, depletes wallets



"I could buy a new outfit every week for the amount of money I spend on lunch here."

-Nicole Sporlien
ACHS senior

The fourth hour bell rings, and the mad dash begins. Warning: slow walkers get out of the way. These students are on a mission as they frantically power walk into the Commons hoping to secure their spot in the lunch line.

What are the consequences for those students who may not have been blessed with long strides, got caught in the math hallway's traffic or may have just wanted to chat with a friend after third hour? Standing in line for half of their lunch period.

Yet that's only half the battle with food service. Students opening up their wallets may find that by Friday, after a full week of school lunches, the fifteen dollars they allotted for food will have dwindled to less than three George Washingtons.

One typical meal at the high school, a 65 cent drink, \$1 for fries and \$1.65 for a slice of pizza, not only gives students their calories for the day, but provides for a heavy part of a teenage budget.

Nicole Sporlien, senior, buys fries, a pop and an occasional slice of pizza every day spending about \$13 a week. "I could buy a new outfit every week

for the amount of money I spend on lunch here," said Sporlien.

Sporlien isn't alone. Jen Richardson, senior, agrees that eating at the school is not a cheap experience. "I try hard to pack my lunch whenever possible because it just seems like a waste to spend a lot of my money on not a lot of food."

However, will these complaints be heard from students at other high schools as well? Possibly it's not the school trying maliciously to drain their students' fund by forcing high prices and just the stereotypical teenage complainer, this time directing their anger at the cafeteria service.

Bill Ahlers, District 117 business manager, sites that the reason prices are raising is simply that with time, the prices will go up. All schools are being forced to raise prices, battling with inflation. "We made \$490,655 last year from student lunches. The cafeteria breaks even though. We don't make any, nor do we lose any money."

Ahlers uses that logic to explain the increase in milk from a quarter last year to 35 cents this year, as well as the increase in the dime increase in

Three years ago, Antioch changed from Marriott Food Service to Arbor. Arbor services Grayslake High School, as well as Millburn Grade School. Another popular company is Sodexo, serving Lake Zurich. Lake Zurich sells seven-inch personal pan pizzas for \$2.50.

However, Eberle says the company change didn't have a big affect. "We offer cappuccino now, and got rid of the yogurt." Overall the menu's a little more healthy. More salads and vegetables are offered.

California legislators followed the healthy trend, banning the sale of junk food in elementary and middle schools. The change in lunch programs has been seen locally at Lake Forest, who offers a gourmet lunch menu.

Variety is not the issue in the lunch lines, however, it's the hungry students' money. "Do you have a quarter?" will be heard in a 15 foot radius from the lunch lines. If you do have money, guard it tight or at least don't tell anyone, because those who don't will be hungry for your change.

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