

## Metro Café to Adjust Menu Prices

- New value combinations are offered to offset rising costs in food service industry

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Sept. 12, 2003) - Metro Café will revise menu prices beginning Sept. 29 to reflect the increased costs of food and products, cafeteria manager Bruce Ueno announced today.

"We have successfully resisted rising costs until recently, said Ueno, who noted cafeteria prices have not been raised since April 2000. "Increases in food and transportation costs, insurance, and other overhead have made a price hike necessary," he said.

Rising costs of food products were clocked at a nearly 4 percent rate of inflation by an industry report in February. According to the report, higher prices, fueled by tighter supplies and reduced inventories, now represent the largest increase in costs in several years.

The cafeteria will offset some of the costs with a variety of new value combinations, which offer a savings over ala carte prices.

Cheeseburger, hot dog, and turkey burger combos will include a 20 oz. fountain soft drink for a new value price of \$3.50.

Customers also will have the option of adding a 20 oz. fountain soft drink and fries to any item on the grill menu for \$1.59 more.

In addition, customers can add a regular bag of chips and a 20 oz. fountain soft drink to any deli specials for \$1.49.

A new price list, which will be published and made available prior to Sept. 29, reflects a price increase of 2 cents for such items as toast, to 15 cents more for a hamburger.

Seeking additional ways to increase values, Metro Café will conduct a customer preference survey beginning Monday, Sept. 15. The brief surveys will be available in the cafeteria at the check-out stands. A completed survey is good for a coupon that can be exchanged for a 20 oz. soft drink or an order of fries.

"We know that value is important to our customers at MTA," said Ueno. "We will continue to introduce more combination options to our lunch menu that will offer additional value to our patrons."

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