

The Mill Café creates talk throughout Mont Alto

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The Mill Café (The Mill for short) is more or less a buffet in which any one can stuff his or her stomach full of pizza, pasta, or whatever special the cooks made that day. There are a variety of food stations available such as the deli, grill, pizza, demo, entrée, beverages, and a salad bar. All one has to do is go up to a station and simply place an order and voila, the food is ready! "Students that go to The Mill usually tend to go to a different station each day," says Teresa Diller, an employee who has been with The Mill for five and a half years.

According to a recent poll of several students, students and commuters alike tend to go the grill the most for their food. At



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times, The Mill becomes extremely busy, placing tons of stress on its employees who are on the register and the grill.

Both the students and adults who work at The Mill seem to have fun doing their jobs. According to Freshman Jenna Panosetti, "There is very good communication between the students and the adults." Other employees have

also stated that working at The Mill requires good teamwork and communication skills with one another which is something they enjoy.

For Mont Alto Hall residents and commuters that go to The Mill to eat they consider the location to be pretty much in the center of the campus; however, the students who live in Penn Gates say that there should be something like The Mill a bit closer to where they reside. Freshman Adriana Santamaria says that, "It's a great place to eat breakfast, lunch and dinner and enjoy yourself with friends and the food." Freshman Takema Fuller says, "I like the atmosphere of The Mill and the fact that it stays open kind of late at night on [weeknights]."

With such good comments aside, there are other students that do criticize The Mill. Some students think that The Mill needs to have more healthy options. Also, some believe that the prices should be cheaper or they should get a larger amount of food. Another criticism heard is that the portions should be consistently the same.

As one can see, not everyone is content with The Mill's food, especially not Freshman Sean Cooper. "I don't like the lack of food selection. I don't like how long you have to wait for your food at the grill. And I don't like how they have bad cell phone service in there."

Of course, Curt Wengert, one of the managers of Housing and Food Services, will disagree with anyone who criticizes The Mill. He's been with The Mill for over ten years. He says, "working with young adults provides a very dynamic group to work with and it's a lot of fun." He also states, "We try to keep it fair compared to

other establishments. We're looking to give a good product out there."

Due to his knowledge acquired throughout the ten years of work, Wengert shared some helpful information. He explained that there are two types of meal plans: the A-la Board plan (mandatory for residential students) which provides a 65% discount on all the foods they make in-house and a 10% on packaged foods. The other plan is called Lion Cash, which resembles a debit card where you get a 10% discount with that as well. Commuting students can choose either plan that they would like.

For those students who do not know which meal plan that they should have, here's some advice from Wengert. When giving advice about meal plans, Wengert states, "First of all, it depends on your eating habits. You should get a bigger plan than you need because the remaining balance at the end of the Fall semester gets transferred to the Spring semester. It would be a good idea to lower your meal plan which you can do



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up till December 4 of this year so you can get a refund if you think you're going to have too much money in the Spring semester. You can do this by going online or by going to the Food and Services office located in The Mill." Wengert adds,

"Remember, whatever money is leftover at the end of the spring Semester will NOT be refunded back to you."

All in all, The Mill is a place where any one can come to enjoy a good meal. "Our goal is to be a place where you can come and have fun. To relax, to take a break from all of the stress from the academics, and to hang out with your friends." Wengert follows this himself because from time to time, one can see him all over the place socializing with students.