



# The Lion's Eye



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## Lunch break

### New food-service firm to take over cafeteria

Penn State Delaware County has decided to switch the company that will service the cafeteria, the *Lion's Eye* has learned.

Catherine's Catering Inc., owned by Nick Logothesis, that provided the food and vending machines, decided not to make a bid to renew its contract with the school. Catherine's has been servicing Penn State Delco for seven years.

Catherine's started with a three-year contract, and has been renewed each of the past four years.

Penn State Delco's food service committee, made up of students, faculty, and staff, decided that the new contract should be awarded to the Joe-Chris Betz Company.

That company is owned by Joseph Betzala, Jr., who also currently owns Java Joe's Restaurant, located in Woodlyn.

"I am extremely pleased about the Joe-Chris Betz Co. coming to campus," said Lisa Yerges, director of business services for Penn State Delco. "Joe Betzala's enthusiasm, wealth of experience, and history of providing quality food and service will certainly benefit the campus."

The new contractor will be up and running in the cafeteria by September 2004.

Logothesis, meanwhile, said that there were a variety of reasons that he considered before deciding not to make a bid to renew his contract.

"Because the new contract states I have to stay open until (7 p.m.), it is no longer viable," said Logothesis when asked why he decided not

to place a bid to renew the contract for an eighth year.

Logothesis also said that he decided not to place a bid because his own campus catering business had diminished considerably.

"I can't come into a situation knowing I'm going to lose money,"

Logothesis said, pointing out that he was involved in three other business ventures, including the Sbarro's in



Photo by Anteia Consorto

Catherine's Inc. and owner Nick Logothesis will no longer operate the school cafeteria, now that a new contract has been signed with the Joe-Chris Betz Co.

Granite Run Mall. "I've worked all of my life so I can be independent," he said.

Approximately four bids were given to Penn State Delco before the decision was made to award the contract to the Joe-Chris Betz Company.

The new company in the cafeteria

does not necessarily mean that the prices of items in the cafeteria will go down. According to Yerges, though, the prices will be comparable overall to the current prices. "When considering the bids," Yerges said, "the committee focused on a number of things including, for example, the quality of the food

served, the cleanliness of food operations, proposed hours of operation for the cafeteria, and food pricing."

When Yerges was asked why Penn State Delco decided to put a new contract for the cafeteria out for bid, she pointed out two reasons.

"Two things prompted the decision to bid the food service operation out," she said. "One, the fact that the current contract with Catherine's Campus Catering was up for renewal and, two, the results of the food-service survey which the campus community participated in a couple of semesters ago. It is typical for the institution to solicit proposals at the end of the year."

"I, along with the committee, am very pleased with the vendor and believe strongly that the students, faculty, and staff will appreciate and benefit from this new operation," Yerges added.

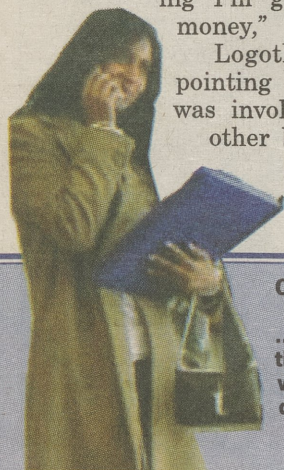
However, Logothesis wanted to make it clear that not renewing his contract will not greatly affect his business ventures overall.

"This is a minor part of my business, this is for my enjoyment," Logothesis said. "I'm not hurting for money."

Logothesis, who was once a school teacher, did say that he has some good memories from the cafeteria. He made it evident that he enjoyed being around the students and said "I have no regrets about being here. I love the kids."

It was not clear whether the Joe-Chris Betz Co. contract calls for the cafeteria to have extended hours, though Logothesis said the school wanted him to remain open until 7 p.m., had his contract been extended.

Also, it was not clear whether there would be any other changes in the way the cafeteria operates.



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