

# PSU Profile: 'Sandwich Orders Please!' Yells Lady-in-the-HUB

Penetrating the preoccupation of lunch-time selection comes a piercing voice, "sandwich orders please!" which dissipates the spell and brings the automatic response, "cheeseburger, french fries, catsup on the side."

Mrs. Martha Letterman, one of the three 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. counter employees in the Hetzel Union Lion's Den, defended her "barking" manner as the "only way to get through to students. They are so far away in a daze of thought about their studies and books. Hollering is the only way to awaken them to the fact that it is time to eat."

Mrs. Letterman admitted, however, that her co-workers have nicknamed her "Sarge," in defence to her commanding personality. She said she realized her "behind the counter manner" actually instilled moral fear into students, especially freshmen. "Although I often seem to be very angry, I never really am. I'm just quick and short talking by nature."

### Conversation

She laughingly related the following conversation as the prime example of a student who took offense to her abrupt manner:

Mrs. Letterman: "Sandwich orders, please ma'am."

Coed: "I'd like a Bostonburger."

Mrs. Letterman: "I'm sorry ma'am but we don't have Bostonburgers here. Just hamburgers and cheeseburgers."

Coed: "Well, forget it them!"

Mrs. Letterman: "Now just a minute, ma'am. If you'll only tell me what a Bostonburger is,

I'll see if we can make one for you. I've never been to Boston, you know."

Coed: "It's a hamburger with lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise."

Mrs. Letterman: "Thank you, ma'am. If you had told me that in the first place, I could have had your sandwich for you by now."

Coed: (stiffly) "You're welcome, but I think I'll go someplace else to eat."

Mrs. Letterman, however, saved the day with the characteristic diplomacy of all restaurant people. She reported that she managed to soothe the coed's ruffled feathers, and presented her with a "lovely" sandwich. She happily added, "I'm pleased to say that the same girl comes in very often now. She always looks at me and smiles and asks for a hamburger with lettuce, tomato and mayonnaise."

### Ninth Year

Mrs. Letterman said she marked her ninth year as a Lion's Den employee March 1. She was previously employed by the University as an assistant cook in McElwain Hall for six years. Completely dedicated to her work, Mrs. Letterman describes the "most horrible thing in the world" as having to work at a job you don't like. "It was raised by a restaurant family and have always been around restaurant people. I won't want to be doing anything else."

Mrs. Letterman said her job in the HUB "does something for me. Working with young people keeps me young. If I were working anywhere else, I'd feel that I were getting old too

quickly." She added that she hoped to keep her present occupation as long as she "satisfied her employer, Elmer D. Carson, and has good health."

Like all people who love their work, Mrs. Letterman relates her job closely to her family life. She was born in Milesburg and still lives there with her husband, Donald G. Letterman, and an 18-year-old son. I also have another son who's 24 and lives in California. She also counts her 14 co-workers as her children. She compares raising children with teaching her student co-workers how to do a good job in the Lion's Den.

### Explain It Once

"When the new ones come to work with me, I tell them I'll explain everything once; if they become nervous and forget, I'll go over it with them a second time; and when they ask me a third time, I have to tell them to do the best they can. I raised my sons the same way."

### Suggestions Given

When asked for suggestions which would ease students' attempts to get what they want to eat, Mrs. Letterman explained some restaurant jargon that helps speed up ordering and serving in the Lion's Den. A "BLT all the way" is a bacon, lettuce and tomato sandwich on toast with mayonnaise. A "hamburger or cheeseburger all the way" is one with relish, catsup, mustard and onion.

She also reminded students that all condiments are put on sandwiches in the kitchen. And pizzaburgers are not topped with sauce, but have the pizza flavor in them.



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Penn State triumphed in her first Invitational Chess Tournament this past weekend. The scores were: Penn State 15, Cornell 10, Temple 11 1/2 and Syracuse 7.

First place was won by Mr. Perlo of Cornell, who won three and one half games, and second place went to William Binney (11th-science-Reynoldsville) of Penn State, who also won three and one half games. Perlo won over Binney on the basis of tie breaking points.

According to John P. Devreaux, assistant coach, Penn State won through the strength

## Teacher Interviews

Interviews with the following schools may be made by appointment in 103 Burrowes. Certification fields desired by each school district are listed in the Teacher Placement Office:

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