

# Students welcome new snack bar in South Halls

By KAREN GUTH  
Collegian Staff Writer

As students streamed into a new South Halls Redifer Commons Snack Bar, Mary Ann Gavazzi recorded their names, ID numbers and purchase totals on brown paper bags.

"The reader isn't working!" said Gavazzi, an assistant manager, with a laugh. "It just won't accept cards." It was a small glitch in an otherwise popular enterprise.

About 50 students had stood outside just a few moments before, waiting for the doors to open.

Bea Shimmel, the manager, said she did not know what had gone wrong with the reader, which subtracts the purchase amount from a student's meal account. Shimmel said the reader had worked yesterday afternoon when the employees tested it, adding that the students not

charged would have the points deducted today.

The reader was working by 8:30. "The reaction has been really good," said Gavazzi. "The first girl in said, 'Wow, look at all this neat stuff.'"

The snack bar, located in Dining Room B in Redifer, is open Sunday through Thursday from 8 p.m. to midnight. It offers a variety of sandwiches, subs, salads, and other snacks. It also has daily specials ranging from slices of cheese and pepperoni pizza to bread sticks with milano sauce.

Behind the serving line, Reese Finn (junior-economics) said things went well with the first rush of students, adding that the french fries were the first to go.

"If I were a student, that's what I would want," he said. "They make a good snack."

Other popular items included cheeseburgers.

Lore Buchalter (sophomore-wild-life science) sat at a table enjoying her french fries, cheeseburger, and soda.

"It's about time they had a snack bar with fries," Buchalter said. "These are definitely a plus."

Buchalter, who lives in South Halls, said she used to go to Pollock's snack bar, R.C. Proffitt's, occasionally, but said it was too crowded most of the time.

"It has things that Pollock doesn't have," Buchalter said, adding that she will probably come to the Redifer snack bar more often.

Gavazzi said the South Halls snack bar had more of a club atmosphere than Proffitt's.

"It offers a different kind of service - a different atmosphere and different foods," she said.

# African education reaches far beyond textbooks, lectures

By BETH HARMEN  
Collegian Staff Writer

Some University students and faculty are not just learning about West Africa from a textbook, but are experiencing its culture.

Thomas A. Hale, University professor of African, French and comparative literature, said teaching about Africa goes beyond his classroom.

"I'm teaching to a much larger audience - all the students on campus," he said. Part of sharing the culture to students is inviting West African oral tradition musicians - griots - to the University.

Vice Provost James Stewart, who teaches with Hale, said Hale is "instrumental in students learning about West Africa by bringing in griots, organizing films and arranging for speakers."

"He's an ambassador to internationalize our mission," Stewart said.

Hale, an African literature scholar for two decades, had his first experience in West Africa as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Niger from 1964 to 1966.

Most of Hale's five students in his graduate seminar class on French-speaking cultures are pleased with his capabilities in the subject.

"I find him very objective," said Margo Brault (graduate-French). "He's very professional, he sticks to the facts. I'm

always trying to figure out if he's left wing or right wing." Some of his colleagues said he nurtures student interest in West Africa both here and abroad.

"Dr. Hale has been instrumental in developing opportunities for Penn State students to travel to West Africa, to do research, to engage in teaching and to learn about the culture," said Deputy Vice President for International Programs W. LaMarr Kopp.

Comparative Literature Department head Caroline D. Eckhardt agreed.

"He has been a major catalyst for comparative study of African literature at Penn State. He's very involved with both students and faculty."

Hale also stresses the importance of teaching Penn State faculty about West Africa.

"None of them have ever studied Africa formally," Hale said. "They don't know much about Africa, yet they're making decisions on what African courses should be offered and what courses count for what requirements."

Hale was also among 114 scholars nationwide recently awarded a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship for University Teachers for 1991-92.

As a West African bards specialist, he will use some of these funds to conduct the first examination of bards' social function and verbal art. The research will be compiled in a book titled "Griots: Their Social Functions and Verbal Art, from the Empires of West Africa to the Global Village."

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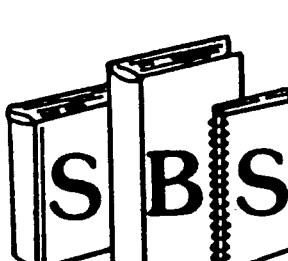
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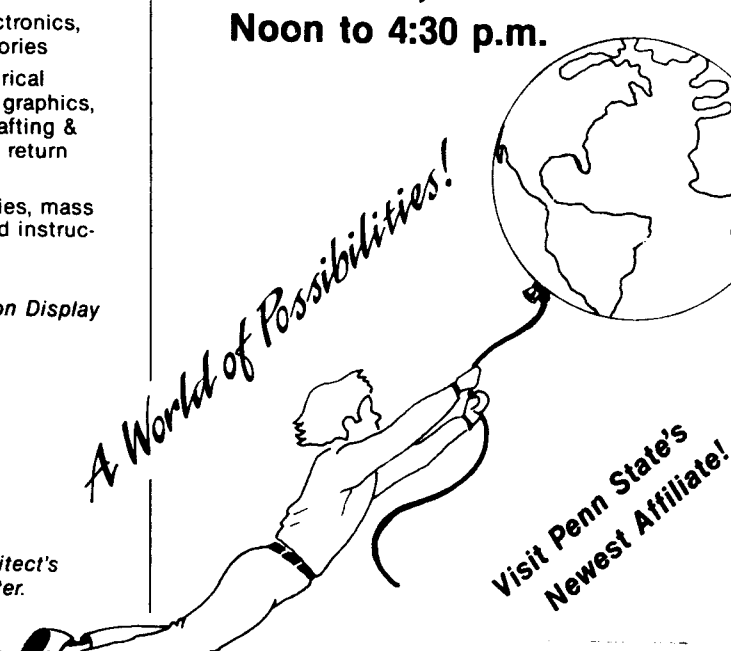
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