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were driven into hiding by US and NATO forces, for harboring al-Qaeda, and the current Afghan president, Hamid Karzai was selected to serve an interim period in 2002, followed by winning a questionable democratic election in 2004 and 2009.

Afghanistan's turbulent past can also be partly attributed to its' highly complex social and ethnic structure. According to the CIA, Afghanistan has a population of roughly 28 million people, comprised of at least 8 different ethnic groups, speaking around 34 different dialects of the Afghan

Persian (or Dari), Pashto, Turkic and other languages, living in 34 provinces that comprise an area slightly smaller than Texas.

Couple these numbers with the fact that the country has two different Islamic religious factions (Sunni and Shia), factor in that the country's median age is around 17 and that the overall population has a literacy rate of around 28 percent and now you have a basic understanding of the complexity of the situation on the ground.

If the history of Afghanistan and the diversity of its population weren't complex enough, the country also has some of the

most rugged terrain on the planet. The northern and southwestern portions of the country are comprised of semi-arid to arid plain lands, which are split laterally by the snow-capped Hindu-Kush Mountains, with peaks up to 24,000 feet, resulting in isolated pockets of people, spread amongst valleys and plains.

All of these factors – violent history, complex ethnic and social structures, and rugged geography, all affect the on-going war in Afghanistan and make the situation for US and NATO ground-forces in the country a very delicate operation, where time is both friend and foe.

# Lunch hours are back at Coltrane

by Emily Clark  
Business Manager

“You’ve asked, we’ve heard.” Coltrane Food Court is serving lunch again due to student response last semester.

Coltrane will no longer be open during the coffee hours due to few people coming in the morning.

ARAMARK and Campus Life conducted surveys and listened to suggestions from the Student Government Association at BC.

From the surveys, Coltrane has added some new and old items to the menu including foot long subs, wings, quesadillas, fried mushrooms, and cheese sticks.

Just ask today for free smoothie samples to taste what smoothies are available. Free smoothie samples were offered in Myers Dining Hall last week. “All smoothies

are made from natural ingredients and contain no added sugars or high fructose corn syrup”

comments Millie Heidenreich, Catering Manager at BC.

Coltrane will not be open on weekends except for three student events. Coltrane will open when Campus Life hosts the following events. There will be an event today, January 22 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m. called Throwback Friday. On Saturday, March 20th at 8 p.m. there will be live music featuring “Valerie Custer”. Casino Night will be held on Friday, April 30th from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

### The new hours for lunch are:

**Monday- Thursday, Lunch  
11 AM- 3 PM**

**Sunday- Thursday, Dinner  
7 PM- 11 PM**



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NEW Coltrane  
Commons,  
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~ BC Grille ~**

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