

Cafeteria staff works hard for students

By Harold Freeman
Staff Writer

Backpacks and books are scattered on tables throughout the room while the sultry sounds of R&B singer Faith fills the air. Along with loud students and the sounds of forks clanking against plates, hungry students grab eating utensils and push trays along the railing in the kitchen as they pick out their entrées for the day from behind the glass sneeze-guard. The students are enjoying the cafeteria.

Upon exiting with their food, students take a glass out of the rack next to the doorway. Amidst the array of fountain drinks available, most students create their own blend of fruit punch, Sprite and lemon punch.

Students perform this ritual daily, and most are thankful for the on-going efforts by the staff of Shaw Food Services Company to keep them happy.

"We have a very vocal group of students and if they were not happy, I know we'd hear about it," said Eugenia Millender, food service director. "Come and look at the dish room, the plates are empty. We must be doing something right."

She stated that the cafeteria is here for everyone to enjoy. She encourages all students to come and in and eat.

Boarding students

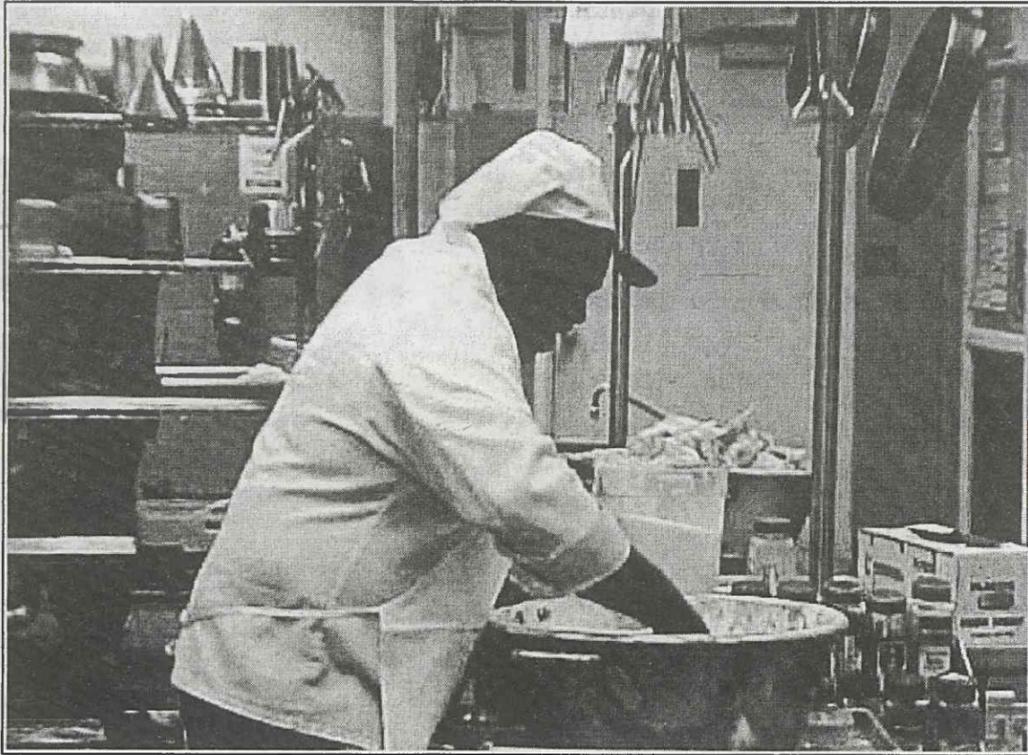


Photo by Brion Anim-Addo

Cafeteria staff member, Charles Smith, prepares dinner for the students to enjoy.

automatically receive meal plans with their housing for the semester, however, non-boarding students who wish to eat in the cafe may do so by purchasing their own meal plans or paying for meals individually for approximately \$2.

Still, some students feel the cafeteria staff can do more to accommodate them.

Renita Pruitt, a freshman child psychology major from Virginia, stated that the food has no taste and it's hours of operation are not

convenient.

"The food is very bland," she said. "The food needs to be more nutritious and less greasy."

She also said that she would like to see the meal times changed to allow for longer service.

"Breakfast and dinner are served too early," she said "I always have to rush to the cafe."

In spite of students personal criticisms, Millender says the food program is good and could be better if students would

communicate with her and work toward a solution that can please everyone.

"I think that is a very good deal, you get to eat as much as you like," she said. "But if you don't see something you want, tell me and I'll whip-out some recipes."

For any student who requires a specific diet due to health problems, one can be arranged by contacting either of the food service directors.

"We have a variety of low-fat and low-sodium recipes we can use to

prepare special dishes for those who need them," said James Cotten, the assistant food service director.

In an earnest attempt to please everyone who eats in the cafe, the food service program has non-pork dishes and vegetarian dishes as well.

"You can actually see that they are making an effort to please the students," said Sharonda Brown, a senior majoring in communications. "You can actually see the changes."

However, despite the changes on the menu, the cafeteria staff still asks that students not abuse the buffet services allowed them.

"The service is buffet; all you can eat -while you are here," said Millender. "Not all you can eat, then carry off to your room for the week."

She says some students do not realize that by taking an abundance of items, such as juice, creates a financial problem over time.

"When a student takes a jug full of soda, they are emptying the whole container that we've bought," she said. "That \$1 soda is now \$25 to us."

A final request that they have is that students be a little cleaner while eating, and refrain from taking dishes and glasses from the cafeteria. When students take glasses, they have to be replaced.

"I know they want to have plates in their rooms, but they can't take ours," Millender said.

New law class aims to be beneficial for students in the long run

By Harold Freeman
Staff Writer

For most of us, understanding contracts and financial obligations can be intimidating upon appearance; in fact, we encounter this twice every school year and don't even realize it. It can be as simple as signing a name on a form or by verbally saying the word "Yes" on a telephone. There are many traps that students can fall into, unknowingly. Many businesses exploit this-some even prey on it.

What can students do to keep from becoming targets? The first step may be to enroll in a new course offered by the Department of Urban and Social Studies entitled Personal Law; taught by department chairperson, Gerald Jarrett.

Jarrett is putting forth new concepts and ideas in an attempt to educate all students, not just criminal justice majors. He keeps his classes interesting and educational.

With his vast experience in law as a former judge and attorney, Jarrett has seen first hand what can happen to young adults who do not know their basic rights.

"Any law that is passed, must treat everyone equally, or it is

unconstitutional," Jarrett told students during a class session.

Formerly with the New Jersey Public Defender's Office, Jarrett began teaching at St. Aug's in 1997. Jarrett said while working in New Jersey, he had seen everything that can go wrong with the court system that state.

A New Jersey native and alumnus of Seton Hall University, Jarrett attributes God for bringing him to North Carolina. Having family members already in the triangle area was just an additional incentive.

"Enjoyable students have made being here enjoyable," Jarrett said.

He explained that many students are called upon to take adult responsibilities, despite not having a firm understanding of basic law. He said the idea is to keep students out of courts using the class as a preventive medicine. He added that students need to expand their horizons.

Jarrett's Personal Law course deals mainly with civil law and contractual agreements, which documents are legally binding and which ones are not and by discussing the possible penalties one might face. The class also deals with interstate and intrastate commerce statutes as well as administrative case law. The course discusses almost every aspect anyone can come into

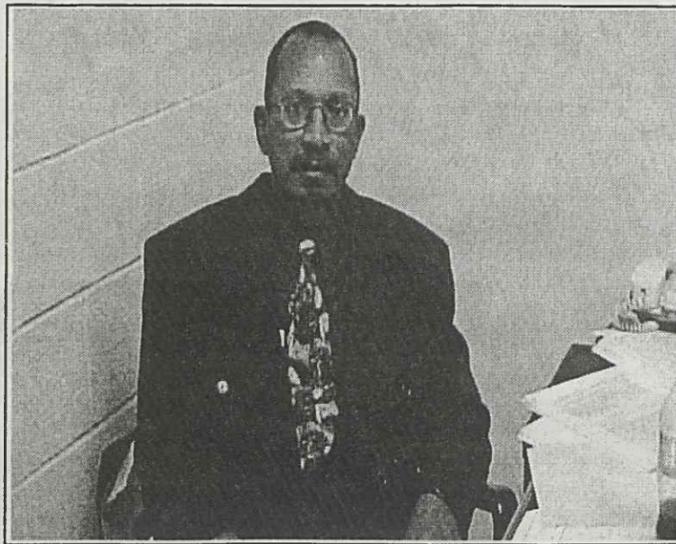


Photo by Brion Anim-Addo

Jarret has big plans for the students who enroll in his new law class.

contact with dealing in the law. The text even has a CD-ROM inside that allows students to create easy-to-use contracts.

Unfortunately enrollment in the course is low and Jarrett hopes for higher attendance next fall once the word has spread.

Even so, the students who are presently enrolled in it are glad it still exists.

"Everybody should take the class," senior, Tamika Sykes, said. "It deals with things from everyday law. It should be a required course."

Sykes is not alone in her

personal assessment of the class. Her classmates also agree that it is vital for college students--adolescents too--to have some basic knowledge of both the criminal and civil court process. Many of them had to learn the lessons the class teaches the hard way which could become expensive over time.

Jarrett said that some problems he heard about in class deal with lease agreements, loan repayment or students not being accurately informed about laws pertaining to checks, particularly postdated checks.

Senior, Charles Hunter says he

learned about financial legalities first-hand. There was no class to prepare Hunter early on in his academic career, but he wishes there had been.

"I feel the class is good for everyone," Hunter said. "Everyone can benefit from it."

Jarrett believes that students in the south have an advantage.

"The difference between north and south is the attitude," he said. "Officers are more sociable here."

He says that incidents in New Jersey that have gained national notoriety illustrate all the serious problems with the court system - from police officers who violate fourth amendment laws to public defenders who don't go to bat for their clients. He says knowledge is the key to keep from becoming a victim and he wants all students to possess it.

In conjunction with Stan Elliott, another instructor in the department, Jarrett is trying to create courses that will benefit all students. He says that this class may be the first of many more in his department's curriculum.

As of right now this class is only offered in the Fall. Jarrett hopes that in the future, Personal Law will become a required course for all St. Aug's students.