



Kurt Ellison

Phyllis Nicolls, head cook at Cabrillo, flips hamburgers at outdoor grill during lunch hour last week.

Cabrillo students dine al fresco

Cafeteria renovations force food service outdoors

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Breakfast and lunch is being served *al fresco* at Cabrillo College because cafeteria renovations have forced food service workers to feed customers outdoors.

Delays in the major renovation project have moved breakfast and lunch business to an area next to the amphitheater. The cafeteria is housed in the student center. Food workers having been using an off-campus cafeteria at a church conference center to prepare some of the daily fare such as sandwiches, salads and breakfast items, said Loretta Gildner, cafeteria manager. At noon, customers can buy barbecued hamburgers.

The outdoor cafe routine may continue throughout next

month, but the barbecue grill grilled its last burger Friday, Gildner said. The cook is going to another job.

Renovations were actually scheduled to start in August 1992, but both the state and the community college chancellor's office rejected the original bid, Gildner said. That meant starting the whole bidding process over again.

Actual work of the project began in early March, but if things could go wrong, they did.

A few weeks before the start of the fall semester, Gildner walked into the cafeteria one morning and was shocked to see workers laying down the wrong color floor covering in the cafeteria floor. It was black. She had ordered blue.

Blue, she was told, had been discontinued. She had to settle for bone, a beige-colored, non-

skid, hi-tech floor covering.

Meanwhile, fall classes had started and work hadn't been completed, so she had to move outdoors. The cafeteria is scheduled to re-open in November, she said.

Her staff has to set up and put away the cafeteria equipment everyday. At first it was sort of cute serving lunch outdoors, but that outlook didn't last long.

"It's lost its charm," Mildred said.

Mornings in particular can be especially taxing, Gildner said. The staff has to dodge the sprinklers that are turned on every morning. "I told my workers they could come to work and take a cold shower here," she said.

The cafeteria's closure has forced the cancellation of an ad-

vanced culinary class. These students have used the cafeteria to hold classes, Gildner said. But a beginning culinary course is being conducted at Sunshine Villa retirement home in Santa Cruz, where the class prepares more than 100 dinners every evening, she said.

The cafeteria, Gildner said, was originally built to accommodate about 3,000 students. Enrollment at Cabrillo is now more than 12,000. Renovations will expand the cafeteria by 700 square feet, include new equipment, and redesign the kitchen area to make it more efficient, she said.

But until then, the cafeteria will continue serving breakfast and lunch outdoors, come hell or lawn sprinklers.

"My job is to feed students and, by God, I'm going to do that," Gildner said.