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Joan Ahern
Iowa State College

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Union Food Fads

by Joan Ahern

Grilled roll à la mode is a combination you might see if you worked in the Memorial Union's food department. Miss Mabel Anderson, food director at the Union, remembers the fried egg placed on a grilled roll and covered with sorghum that one man liked to order.

Other variations of food that have gained recognition are chocolate ice cream on banana cream pie and canned figs with corn flakes covered by culture milk.

The first few days of the week are the cafeteria's busiest, perhaps caused by meetings occurring then. Although it is open only 4 1/4 hours during each of these days, over 2,000 meals are served daily to hungry patrons.

One man, first in line, stated that he usually arrives at 10 a.m. to wait for the opening of the Commons at 11:30 a.m. He utilizes this time by reading and studying.

Grilled Cinnamon Roll

To satisfy these appetites, the department serves a great quantity of food. The grilled roll has become a specialty of the Grill, but Miss Anderson added that the staff is looking forward to the day when a grilled cinnamon roll can be offered. A sugar casualty, as was the Cafeteria's memorable apple dumpling, they will be featured again.

An almost unquenchable thirst has been satiated by the sale of approximately 2,800 cups of coffee a day while the milk drinkers consume 1,400 pints in this time. Cokes are served, sometimes for breakfast, but chiefly during the afternoon. However, the Grill's frosty malts are popular in the morning even during blizzard weather.

Ice cream is another Iowa State favorite. Vanilla is chosen about four times as frequently as chocolate chip, but mint and chocolate flavors are demanded often too.

One hundred and eighty-eight people, many of them college students, are employed in the food department. Their duties vary from working on the floor to working in "pots and pans" where the washing of these utensils takes place. Just as one man supervises the coffee-making, all of the cooks are specialists in their jobs.

In the afternoon the Grill and cafeteria become the focal points of "Your College Club" when students assemble for a few moments of relaxation in Union "lab." Bridge games are numerous and include twice as many spectators as players. During this time quantities of snacks are served.