Anne Hildreth ’02 discusses NAFTA debate

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THE CRUSADER NEWS  FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2001

Who's Who

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Everybody knows Sis as the friendly, funny, kind woman who has been a dili- gent employee of Kimball Main Dining Hall since 1984. Her character is gen- uine and her intentions are good. She is, as she put it, “a mom away from home for all the kids at Holy Cross.” She also commented that one of the high- lights of working at Kimball for her has been talking with all of the young adults as they parade in, out, and around the cafeteria.

Sis certainly does act as a mother fig- ure here on campus, yet she could never forget the family of her own. Growing up in Fairchance, Pennsylvania, and having several siblings, Sis was family oriented from the start. After moving to Worcester where she has resided for 42 years, she raised two sons of her own. And now, she often enjoys the company of her three grandchildren as well. One of her grandsons is 18 and in the army service. Her husband of 41 years, “is not only her husband but her best friend as well.” Sis claims that they get along so well and that he is so nice that they never once have fought. Amazing, the happy couple met on a blind date. Working in Kimball was actually Sis’ first job, aside from working in a rag mill with her family. She preferred working at Kimball as she is so family oriented, she opted to stay home and raise her two boys. As her boys grew older, Sis felt the desire to do something more with her days. It was a Tuesday in 1984 when Sis came in for an interview here at Holy Cross. She had seen an ad in the newspaper and de- cided to give it a shot. She did better than she expected when, later that night, she was notified that she had gotten the job. Only two short days later, Sis began working shifts. When asked how long she thinks she will continue to work at Holy Cross, she said, “when I first started here I thought that it would only last one or two years. But one or two years for me has turned into 17. And as long as God continues to give me health and strength that He has been all along, I will be here for years to come.”

Now, 17 years later, when asked what the funniest occurrence was at Holy Cross’ Kimball, Sis replied, “Well, when you get to be 63, you kind of get situated in your mind just bog- gles.” But when asked what the craziest thing she ever saw at Kimball was she replied, “How could I forget? Some boy, right by the glass windows, dropped his drawers and flashed everyone! I thought I had seen everything up until that night!”

Do the Kimball workers eat the Kim- ball food? “Absolutely,” said Sis, “Al- though I am very picky.” Sis says that she stays away from the tacos, the Chi- nese dishes, the lasagna, the pizza. She wants to clarify that there is nothing wrong with the food. She just doesn’t eat it due to being finicky. She said, “I am a meat and potatoes kind of person. Give me gravy and the mashed potatoes!”

Not only has Sis developed close ties with the students of Holy Cross, but she has also made friendships with her fel- low employees and with anyone who was around during this interview, com- mented on Sis’ dislike of prosperity:

“The four letter words are out. Table manners are in.”

Sis agreed, saying, “I don’t like that F-word. If I hear someone say it I’ll just tell him or her that there are ladies present and then they would have to say it properly.”

Another friend, Marilyn, boldly comment- ed, “I never let the stu- dents cut the line. I think it is so unfair to all the others that have been patiently waiting. If I catch them sitting I’ve sent them to the back of the line. I’ve done it before!” While cutting in line may be Marilyn’s biggest pet peeve, Sis said that she particularly hates it when students come into dinner too late, “We close at seven, everyone should get in the door earlier than that.”

Sis barely ever complains at all. In fact, she raved about how the working conditions and situations have improved throughout the years. She said, “We used to have to do everything by hand. And now, the fast is it. We check students in is easier now too, with all the machines and all. Before we used to use the clicker device. Improvements and all.” When asked what her favorite thing about her job is, she replied, “When I have the summers off!”

Everybody knows Sis as the kind, gentle woman who peacefully and comi- tally makes her way through each day’s work. Could there be a wild side? When asked what the wildest thing she has ever done, Sis reminisced quite a bit. She said, “Back home when I was young we used to knock over all the outhouses. Those were my wildest days. And, oh jeez, we used to throw corn and toma- toes at cars.” One time, my friend had but one handful of corn left, and the car that she threw it at was chased us all the way into a sewer ditch. We stunk so badly! I had to tell you that at least my children ever did that, I’d kill them!”

Now, with knowledge of her family, her pet peeves, her likes, and her wildest moment, only one question remains. Why does everyone call her Sis? Sis, when her real name is Charlotte? Sis an- swered, “When I was born my mother asked my brother to come up and see his ‘new little sis’ and that one stuck with me for my whole life.’
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