

February 14, 2010

[home](#)[news](#)[features](#)[arts](#)[sports](#)[opinion](#)[last word](#)*Wednesday, October 1st, 2008*Section: [News](#)[Print This Article](#)

[Healing From Gummere Basement Fecal Smearing Begins](#)

By Andrew Thompson

One week after somebody smeared human excrement all over Gummere Basement, students and administrators reclaimed the space as their own.

President Dr. Stephen G. Emerson '74 called a meeting in Gummere Basement Wednesday for Gummere residents to discuss the future of the basement, as well as ways to restore trust with the Housekeeping Department.

Students' Council Co-President Harrison Haas '10, Gummere Dorm President Raul Lazo '12, and Honor Council Co-Chairs Anastasia Nikolis '11 and Sarina Schwartz '11 attended the meeting, along with several current Gummere residents.

"Although [the incident] happened in Gummere, I think it has affected the entire campus," said Schwartz at the start of the meeting.

Lazo said that Social Fund had e-mailed him about hosting their last party of the year in Gummere Basement. When Gummere residents heard this, they decided they would solicit donations at the entrances to the party.

These donations would go towards funding a student-organized breakfast for members of Housekeeping.

"The goal is to get people here who wouldn't potentially come otherwise [if it was just a party]," Leo Sussan '12 said.

Ethan Glor '11 said the breakfast would show students' appreciations for the Housekeeping staff. Associate Director of Housekeeping Fern Hall liked the breakfast idea.

Residents also discussed initiating a campus-wide effort to put thank you notes and baked goods for Housekeepers in the bathrooms.

"Coming here together, [we have a] nice collection of thoughts, a good plan, and I feel a lot better," Emerson said at the close of the meeting.

The feces was smeared sometime between the afternoon of Wednesday September 17 and Thursday September 18. Hall said there were large smears on the sofa, coffee table, and television.

"[When] this happened, it was a slap in the face," Hall said. "At this point, we're looking to mend the breach of trust."

Housekeeping had completed their afternoon shift on Wednesday without noticing anything, but when Custodian Fred Scott returned the next day, he was disgusted and offended by what he saw.

"I was just at a loss for words, I just told [Scott] to leave it," Hall remembered. "We'll deal with it the next day."

Hall contacted Director of Student Housing Marianne Smith about the matter. She went to see the basement on Thursday afternoon, and immediately sent an e-mail to Gummere residents.

"We hoped someone would come forward and help clean things," Smith said.

The initial policy was that nothing would be done to clean the furniture or the basement until somebody came forward and accepted responsibility.

But nobody accepted responsibility, so Housekeeping decided to remove the furniture last Friday for health and safety reasons.

The furniture was not replaced, however, in keeping with the original decision to wait for someone to come forward.

Dean of the College Greg Kannerstein '63, Dean of Student Life Steve Watter, and Student Activities Coordinator Jason McGraw met Monday to discuss whether the furniture should be replaced.

"We'll come together and see where everybody stands," Kannerstein said prior to the meeting. He said Emerson's input will also be sought based on his meeting with Gummere residents.

As of press time, no decision has been reached.

There was no shortage of student opinion and conversation on the incident. A very active GO! thread emerged on the issue.

Zac Dutton '10 wrote a letter to Smith suggesting restorative measures, rather than punishing the community by withholding the furniture. In the letter, which was also posted on GO!, Dutton urged campus leaders to hold public meetings and generate formal student discussion on the topic.

Smith said that Dutton's letter, along with other comments she has received from students, prompted the call for Wednesday's meeting.

The identity of the perpetrator is still unknown. Smith encouraged somebody to come forward, promising the confession could remain confidential.

Hall encouraged the perpetrator to find a way to make it right, whether that's just speaking to the housekeepers every day or dropping them a note.

"Try to come to peace with yourself," she said. "You don't have to come forward, but just try to right the wrong."

—With contributions from News Editor Michael Novinson

This article is © 2008 The Bi-College News. The material on this page is free for personal or educational use, but may not be reproduced, reprinted, republished, redistributed, or otherwise transmitted to a third party without the express written permission of The Bi-College News, 370 Lancaster Ave, Haverford, PA 19041.

Editor's note: Articles that appear in the [Last Word](#) section are works of satire.

Related articles

- [Community Reacts to Second Gummere Fecal Smearing](#)
- [Shocked Gummere Residents Confronted With Third Feces Incident](#)
- [Racial Graffiti Found in Gummere](#)
- [Dorm Profile](#)
- [Police: Nature Trail Assault a Hoax](#)

- [Students' Council Focuses on Second Fecal Smearing, Racial Profiling](#)

Copyright © 2007 The Bi-College News
 370 Lancaster Ave, Haverford, PA 19041 Voicemail: (610) 526-7323
 Website Designed by Nut Sox and Yoko Smith
[Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#)
[Announced](#)

this
could
be
your

© Bryn Mawr and Haverford Honor Codes. *The Bi-College News* reserves the right to remove obscene or inappropriate
 lation of the Honor Code.

a comment.

[Bryn Mawr](#)
[Haverford](#)

ad

[ed Questions](#)
[Us](#)

conews.com. We are in the process of setting up our new home, so please [let us know](#) if there are any features you
 e site.

best way to distribute the paper by taking this short [survey](#).

is

[wflake Noodles](#)
[ctuary of the First Unitarian Church](#)

[Preview 2009-2010](#)

biconews.com

Recent Articles

February 2010

M T W T F S S

1 [2](#) 3 4 5 [6](#) 7

8 [9](#) 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

[« Jan](#) [«-»](#)

• Bi-College Community

- [Register](#)
- [Log in](#)

this
could
be
your

ad

biconews.com 