

BRYN MAWR & HAVERFORD COLLEGES

RSS

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[Ryan Student Center Opening Delayed](#)

By Andrew Thompson

The renovation of Ryan Gym into a temporary student center moving forward, if not as quickly as expected.

In the October 20th “State of the Ford” campus email, Student Council co-Presidents Will Harrison and Harrison Haas stated that furniture for the space was currently being purchased. The student center will be open “by the time you get the next ‘State of the Ford’ from us [Harrison and Haas].”

Dean of the College Greg Kannerstein ’63 noted that furniture takes weeks for delivery and it’s not simply a matter of picking it up from the store. Kannerstein expressed hope that by next week there will be more concrete plans.

Rachel VanTosh ’09, who has been a key partner in making the student center a reality said, “I’m interested to see if it will actually be done [when the next ‘State of the Ford’ email comes out]. All the furniture will be moved in, so...that will make it possible to start using it, but I don’t know if it’ll be absolutely finished.”

VanTosh’s reasoning for why the project was taking longer than planned to open was the typical difficulties that arise at the beginning of the school year. “People are busy with various [other] things...so the idea that it was going to get done by October...was not physically possible.”

Several improvements have already been made to Ryan Gym in preparation for the transformation. “I know it was just painted. It’s brown now, before it was white. The basketball hoops were taken down, windows were fixed,” VanTosh said. Harrison noted that cable was currently being installed as well.

As for furniture, a large corner of the space will be devoted to some clusters of couches. There will also be several tables, some large area rugs, and lockers where students can store materials in-between classes.

Hammocks and egg chairs, which were previously considered, were deemed too costly and will not be included.

Several unique features are in the pipeline to fully complete Ryan. According to VanTosh, the student center will have a surround sound system with iPod capability for people to play their own music, as well as a stage for performances. Vending machines are planned, as well as two big-screen televisions.

“I was also thinking of a lending library...books, a magazine rack, papers from other parts of the world,” VanTosh said.

With so much in the works, the delays are understandable. Said VanTosh, “My guess...is that it’s not going to get totally completely done until the beginning of next semester...It somewhat depends on other people, it somewhat depends on me. [No single person] is holding it up, I think it’s just that everybody has been [bogged down].”

Not all the renovations have to be finished in order for students to use the space, however. Harrison has said the student center should be formally opened by November 4th, when an election-watching party is scheduled to occur.

“You don’t realize how good it [student space] is until you have it,” Haas said.

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