



The Lion's Eye

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Working out Pit-falls

Lion's Pit still a week or two from fruition

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It's the third week of school for the Fall 2004 semester. So why isn't the cafeteria open yet?

Simple: It's still undergoing major renovations.

It may seem as though the planning was off. Or maybe somewhere along the process of redoing the cafeteria someone made a mistake and had to push back its grand opening.

Neither is the case.

Those in charge of the project knew ahead of time the cafeteria, named the Lion's Pit, would not be open for the start of the school year. The finishing touches are being completed. Furniture is being replaced, holes are being patched up and a unique kind of artwork is being hung on the walls.

The goal is to have the cafeteria finished this week or next.

Megan Peterkin, a freshman, was unaware of all the new changes with the Lion's Pit.

"Really, when is all that happening?" she said.

For those who haven't yet heard what is being done to the cafeteria you're in for a surprise. The old tables and chairs have been exchanged for couches, bar tables and chairs. The tile floors are covered with throw rugs. The bright, white lights are replaced with dimmed lighting systems to soften the mood.

The idea was for the Lion's Pit to seem more like a café, similar to a Starbucks. It will go from a classic cafeteria setting to a more sophisticated and relaxing one, where students can be comfortable all the time.

Near the couches there will be a fireplace to hang out beside and relax for a while in between classes on those cold days. The huge hole in the wall is rather large but is easily explainable. Its purpose is to connect the lounge (once the Lion's Den) and the dining area (now the Lion's Pit). The doors in between are there for when the lounge area will be closed off for special events.

The most interesting change to the room can be found on the



Photo by Katie News

A Lion's Pit employee sits in the cafeteria, near the hole in the wall that will soon lead to the lounge area of the Lion's Pit. The new eatery promises to be a major improvement to the campus.

cafeteria wall. Many cafeterias are decorated with murals done by previous classes, but the Lion's Pit is not like many. The wall will be covered in a creatively designed fabric with tiny holes placed throughout for the light to shine through. It is one of the many things that will give the room its edge over the average cafeteria.

Peterkin is excited for the Lion's Pit to open. "Change is always good," she said, "It keeps things alive and new. The new cafeteria will be 10 times better than what it is now and a nice place to come between classes to grab a bite to eat and hang out with some friends."

In the meantime, along with the aesthetic changes,

Java Joe, famous for his restaurant in Ridley Township, will create a whole new menu to accommodate different tastes and budgets.

"I'm reworking the menu with the constructive criticism I've gotten in mind," said Joe, whose last name is Betzala.

Efficiency is also a goal of Betzala's.

The setup of poles has helped organize traffic flow. Instead of having a mass of people standing around, Betzala can filter them through quickly. This method will cut down on the likelihood of theft by being able to keep a watchful eye. In the past, students have been able to sneak by without paying for their food.



Man Behind the Lion

Donor Ralph D'Iorio on hand for dedication of shrine

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