New Burton Dining Hall Has Troubled Childhood

By David Trevett, '66

As last Burton House, has its own dining hall, complete in every detail—almost. The dining hall staff has finally gotten organized—almost. The food served is great—almost.

Yes, the word which probably describing the new Burton House dining hall most accurately is just that—almost.

It was around three years ago that the Institute decided to build the dining hall. The decision came partially as a result of a psychological survey, which stressed the social benefit of communal dining. The theory was that Burton residents, once they started eating together regularly, would become a better organized, more tightly knit group.

To Serve As Social Hall

The hall would have other advantages also: it could serve as a social hall, providing an adequate place for house dances and other functions.

Thus it was that a year and a half ago (almost) construction began—almost. As is generally the case with building projects (school building projects, that is), there were various and sundry delays. Work finally got under way, however, and Burton House residents spent an enjoyable year listening to "BANG! CRASH! Tap, tap, tap, BOOM!"

Construction Destroys Sleep

One of the major complaints was that workers began their constructive engineering every dinnertime after that hour impossibly.

Nevertheless, when September, 1965, rolled around, the dining hall had been completed on schedule—almost. Despite the lack of several commodities, however, service began on schedule, with the first meal served being breakfast, on September 14.

Unfortunately, evening meals had to be served early due to the fact that no lights had yet been put in. For several days Burtonites could see ends of wire protruding from the walls and ceiling at various places, and by the end of registration day light fixtures (consisting of only sockets and light bulbs) were attached thereto.

Consequently, Are Made

Now, instead of seeing merely wires, diners could see wires with lights attached. Finally fixtures and shades were added, curtains were put up, and the place looked almost decent.

Since the initiation of dining service in the new hall, there has been a great deal of controversy as to the merits thereof. The greatest controversy has concerned the slow service.

Experience Sadly Lacking

Provisionally, the new hall was operating with practically all green staff: there were only about three experienced people on staff. This meant that at the beginning of mealtimes there's usually a line at least 50 feet long.

One problem is that, while there are two serving lines, one side does not have a grill and is therefore unable to serve breakfast. This again causes a line which, although not beyond reason as yet, might be difficult to endure on a Friday when all freshmen have to take their nine o'clock quiz.

Dining Hall Has Surplus, "Waiters"

The long waiting lines have provided the spark for many

(An unpaid testimonial)

Richard the Lion-Hearted

The long waiting lines have provided the spark for many

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AN UNPAID TESTIMONIAL

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Richard the Lion-Hearted says:

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