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## Quick Exchange, December 8, 1999

Office of Public Relations, Bryant College

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# QUICK Exchange

FOR AND ABOUT THE PEOPLE OF BRYANT COLLEGE

## **Y2K Preparedness Q & A**

As the year 2000 approaches and stories of impending doom circulate around the Y2K computer problem, you should know that Bryant College is Y2K compliant and ready to meet the millennial challenge. Some questions and answers follow that are designed to provide you with the very latest in information.

### **How will Y2K affect Bryant?**

Since Bryant, like all institutions, businesses, and individuals, is dependent upon utilities for electricity, power, and telephony, there is always the possibility of temporary disruption in some services. Such interruptions are expected to be short-lived, like temporary problems caused by storms, and while inconvenient, are not expected to cause long-term problems.

Government and businesses have spent billions of dollars to ensure that computer systems will make a successful transition to the next century. Although it is unlikely that the Year 2000, or Y2K, issue will create significant problems in the United States, no one can say for sure that there won't be temporary disruptions.

### **What if there is a problem in my department?**

All departments have contingency plans that should enable them to function with minimal disruption.

### **What if I have a problem with my computer?**

Call the help desk at ext. 24357.

### **How will I know whether to report to work on Monday, January 3rd?**

You should assume it's "business as usual." If there should be a serious Y2K problem that affects our operations, we will follow established emergency/weather guidelines and notify the media. You may also call the Bryant hotline 232-6002 for information.

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## **Will there be students on campus over the December 31 holiday?**

Yes, there will be some students on campus. Public Safety, Physical Plant, and Student Affairs staff will be on campus to assist with any potential problems.

## **What is Y2K?**

Simply put, it is the inability of computers and embedded chips to process dates beyond December 31, 1999. Currently many computers only store a two-digit number for the year – for instance: 98 or 99 for 1998 or 1999. When it becomes 00, it is indistinguishable from the year 1900. It might seem like a minor problem, but the implications could be devastating if the problem were not addressed by the private and public sectors.

All of you have read or heard about the potential disruption to our economy if our telephone systems failed; if power plants stopped producing electricity; if credit card transactions could not be verified; if billing and transportation were disrupted.

The Year 2000 problem is real. But Bryant College has worked on the problem for the past two years and we believe we have mitigated the risks and minimized potential disruptions.

## **What preparations has Bryant taken to ensure Y2K compliance?**

Information Technology staff, vendors, and outside consultants have spent much of 1998 and 1999 preparing for the anticipated computer problems in the Year 2000. Major steps have been completed to ensure readiness and actual testing has been conducted to ensure operational functionality. Bryant's administrative and financial systems are Year 2000 compliant, as well as our shared technical infrastructure including the desktop, networks, telephone systems and large central computers. Administrative applications include: physical plant; academic research computing; and the technical infrastructure that supports the common computing environment.