From inside out: Koffler transformation

"Inside Out" is the title of a popular Phil Collins album track. It might also describe the transformation of the Koffler Center.

Now being renovated into a state-of-the-art computer center, Koffler will look much the same on the outside when its transformation into a Technology Center is complete this summer. But, oh, what the inside will look like!

There really won't be a whole lot that is recognizable now when E. Turgeon Construction, of Cranston, finishes its work. The three-level building, in fact, will have four levels after its conversion, even though the roof won't be raised one inch.

That bit of magic will be pulled off by the addition of a mezzanine level in the area that is now beneath the peak of the 16-sided building's roof. You'll have to take the word of the architect, the Providence Partnership, that there will be headroom on this level. But let's look at the building one level at a time.

The lower level, including the current bowling alley, will house a host of computer work stations for hands-on experiences in a variety of private and group production areas, a study, a printers room, a software library, media storage, and mechanical rooms. You'll still be able to use the tunnel to stay out of the rain. There also will be a new lower-level entrance to the tunnel from the sloping ground to the rear of that area.

The main level will include a business applications laboratory, an applied actuarial mathematics laboratory with library, a work area, a consultants area, and a combination office/conference room/reception area. The consultants area is for persons who want specialized help from the staff, who will be on hand daily. The entire area will have a very "open feeling," said Brian Britton, director of physical plant, with the level divided by cubicles.

The upper level will first be enlarged with the addition of floor space toward the center of the building. A glass-enclosed light shaft to the skylight will be built to provide natural light. You'll be able to look up into the shaft from the main level. This new central-core area will include special-purpose rooms and office space. The old outer core will include offices and a conference room.

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BRYANT'S BUSINESS

Koffler conversion
renews special relationship

Brian Britton has a special feeling for the Koffler Center. The physical plant director's feeling extends to Gene Turgeon, the E. Turgeon Construction superintendent who is taking apart the building and putting it back together again as a Technology Center.

You see, Koffler was the first building Britton was assigned to as project manager after coming to Bryant. He cut his teeth on that building, working closely with Turgeon, the man who put Koffler together 11 years ago and a man Britton can't say enough good things about.

"He (Turseon) took that job and lived and breathed it," Britton said.

It was very typical of Turgeon to take home the plans at night to study them so he'd be ready for everything the next day, Britton said. So there is no doubt in Britton's mind now that Bryant has the best possible superintendent working on the transformation.

Because of Koffler's circular shape, it is filled with thousands of compound angles—angles not normally found in a typical industrial building. This made it several times more complex to put together, Britton said. But Turgeon handled it like the master builder he is.

"It was like a giant Erector set," Britton said, "with a crane used to lift thousands of pieces."

And Turgeon had to line up every piece in his mind as early as when concrete for the first floor was poured, he said.

"We had to be very careful that the main columns supporting the roof were erected exactly plum," said Turgeon.

Turseon's fondest memory of the original construction?

"When the last piece fit," he said.

The structure also contains three distinct types of building materials: steel, poured concrete, and laminated wood. Most buildings use only one or two types of materials.

It's also not typical to have to line up a tunnel between two buildings.

"We could have come up a little short," Britton said.

Turgeon has more than 25 years of experience as a project superintendent for the same contractor, and more than 40 years overall in construction.

"He has this clock in his head," Britton said. "He knows he has to keep things moving to get a job done."

Recalling their original relationship, Britton said: "I am sure I was a pain in the high, even though I knew construction from working as a tradesman before going back to college."

Britton holds a dual fine arts and architecture degree from Rhode Island School of Design. He came to Bryant as a draftsman to help handle the construction of Koffler and became its project manager. Brad Draycott is now the project manager for the conversion.

"It was a very big jump for me," Britton says, but he thinks he earned Turgeon's respect quickly because of his own knowledge and his ability to form a relationship that was beneficial both to the contractor and the College.

"We both met each other's goals," he said.

Koffler's original construction also had a bit of a mystery to it that could be called The Case of the Disappearing Studs.

"We'd find that pre-cut studs would disappear from the job site, so we'd have to reorder," Turgeon said, even though it was suspected that the studs were ending up in the rooms of students.

After they went home for the summer, Britton said, a thorough search of each dormitory was made. Sure enough, the mystery was solved.
Hall of Fame opens

by John Gillooly
Sports Information Director

The Bryant Athletic Hall of Fame, three years in planning, finally became a reality on February 13 with the induction of its first 10 members at the inaugural dinner in the Bryant Center.

Approximately 150 friends and family members watched as five of the 10 inductees, Wally Camper, Arnold Collison, Tom Duffy, Ernie DeWitt and Jenny Proud, accepted their Hall of Fame plaques.

Mrs. Leana Fay, daughter of late Providence Journal sports cartoonist Frank Lanning, and Mrs. Edith Martino, mother of late golfer Al Martino, accepted the awards for the two members who were inducted posthumously.

Also unable to attend were former All-American golfer Jim Hallet, who is playing on the Asian professional golf tour, former tennis and basketball star Charlie Swanson, who was in Florida, and former basketball star Tom Smils, who was ill. Family members accepted their awards.

"The Bryant athletic program has come a long way from the days when we only had seven players on the basketball team and had to suit up the bus driver one night because three of our players fouled out of a game," said Arnold Collison, captain of the 1932 Bryant & Stratton basketball team. Collison's recollections of Bryant athletes in the 1930's was one of several humorous stories provided by the award winners during the acceptance speeches.

"I was so mad at the officials at a basketball game that I walked out and sat down at center court," said Wally Camper, who coached the men's basketball team in the early '60s. "I told the officials I was going to sit there until they stopped making bad calls against our players. They got four guys out of the stands to carry me off the court and kept making bad calls."

The evening also had its moving moments.

"The knowledge that he had been chosen as one of the first inductees for the Bryant Hall of Fame was a great source of pride for my father in his final months on earth," said Mrs. Fay, accepting the award for her father, the nationally known sports cartoonist who died of cancer last month.

Replicas of the plaques presented to each inductee at the dinner will go on display this spring in the Hall of Fame Gallery in the gymnasium lobby.

Front row, left to right: Mrs. Edith Martino, Tom Duffy, Jenny Proud, Arnold Collison. Back row, left to right: President O'Hara, Wally Camper, Leana Fay, Ernie DeWitt.

Phonothons bring unexpected results

Bryant Fund Phonothons sometimes bring unexpected results.

Take the case of the 1967 alumni from Virginia who was called on the first night of the current spring Phonothons that continue tonight.

"He'd never been called before," said Tony Plotti, director of annual giving. "But given the personal contact by Mike Kennedy (sophomore caller from Beta Sigma Chi fraternity), he was motivated to provide support to the tune of $1,000."

"It's this type of person-to-person approach that makes the Phonothons such a success."

Callers gather tonight for the sixth night of the 10-night Phonathon, which has as its grand prize an eight-day, seven-night trip for two to Cancun or Acapulco. Phonothons also are scheduled for tomorrow night, and March 8, 9, and 10. Next Wednesday night is the Superstar-Grand Prize Competition for the top callers on each of the first nine nights.

Phonothons run from 8 to 9 p.m. with dinner provided in Room 386 A&B. In addition to qualifying for the vacation, top callers each night win cash prizes. Student groups also can work for separate cash awards. Kennedy, for example, was part of Beta's 25-person contingent calling on the opening night.

Calls are being made to alumni and parents, Plotti said. There is always room for additional volunteers on any night. Contact the development office at ext. 6250 to sign up.
Betty Cotter has been appointed director of health services at Bryant, with responsibility for all student health programs and services. The nurse practitioner has been health educator here...

Howard Kay, director of corporate and community affairs, has been re-elected a director and member of the executive committee of the Rhode Island Technology Council. He is joined on the executive committee by Tim Sullivan, director of The CENTER, who has been reappointed chair of the council's human resource committee...

Professor Bill Haas spoke in early February to the Council for International Visitors as part of its "Great Decision" series. He examined the impact of the arms race on current social and economic development in communist countries...

Professor Frank Bingham speaks to the National Association of Educational Buyers on April 4. He will discuss "Principles of Price Determination, Cost Price Analysis and Negotiated Purchases: What's the Connection?". He also is working with professor Barney Raffeild on a text titled "Industrial Marketing: A Contemporary Approach"...

Senior Ruth Alberg attended the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) New England district conference in Boston in early February as a "student scholar." She was one of six students in the region chosen competitively by CASE to attend because of her work in the institutional advancement division...

President O'Hara was the focus of the prestigious Page 3 Interview of the Providence Business News, February 16 issue. Each week, the business newspaper interviews a prominent Rhode Islander in question-and-answer fashion, using this approach to profile the person and the organization he or she represents...

Professor Bill Hill began offering in late February a weekly two-to-three minute commentary for WSBE-TV's "Statehouse Report" show. The Wednesday evening, prime-time telecast focuses on Rhode Island politics and political issues, and airs on Channel 36 while the legislature is in session...
MONDAY, MARCH 2

Phonothon
Room 386 A&B
6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Human Relations Skills for Supervisors
2-Day Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phonothon
Room 386 A&B
6 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

Eucharist
Auditorium
Noon

Ecumenical Scripture Service
Auditorium
3:30 p.m.

Jail and Ball
Room 386 A&B
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

Management Skills for the Office Supervisor
2-Day Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Jail and Ball
Room 386 A&B
8 a.m. - 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Eucharist
CMD Conference Room 4
Noon & 9 p.m.

Protestant Services
Bryant Center Chapel
12:30 p.m.

SPB Movie
"Mask"
Auditorium
7 & 9:15 p.m.

Phonothon
Room 386 A&B
6 p.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 9

Employee Rights in the Workplace
2-Day Seminar
The CENTER
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Phonothon
Room 386 A&B
6 p.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Phonothon
Room 386 A&B
6 p.m.
Assistant to President appointed

President O'Hara has named a young writer to be his new assistant.

Peter B. Mandel, 29, joined the President's staff in mid-February. Among his responsibilities are speech writing, research, and office management.

Mandel came to Bryant from Antioch Publishing Company, in Ohio, where he was an editor and staff writer of children's and gift books. The New York City native also has written and edited for the Brown Alumni Monthly, and works as a freelance writer. Among his credits are the Providence Sunday Journal, Harper's, and Yankee magazines.

Mandel holds an M.A. in writing from Brown University and a B.A. in American literature from Middlebury College. He also studied for a year at the University of Keele in England.

The Presidential assistant is married. He and his wife, Kathy, will be living in Providence.

Peter B. Mandel

‘Jail and bail’ reminder

A reminder to all you Bryant ‘criminals’: the annual ‘Jail and Bail’ fund-raising event for the American Cancer Society is Wednesday and Thursday. So get ready to become a ‘jailbird’ until you raise bail to free yourself from the ‘slammer.’

The cellblock will be in Room 386 A&B from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The Bryant Marketing Association is sponsoring the event, and arranging to arrest faculty and staff members and other area personalities on a variety of crimes. Jailbirds will spend one hour on the telephone trying to raise bail from anyone, anywhere for cancer research.

Strategic planners want your help

Bryant’s Strategic Planning Committee is seeking your help.

The committee wants you to give serious thought to the strengths, weaknesses, shortcomings, unrecognized opportunities, and best future direction of Bryant, and then share your ideas.

Mike Patterson, associate vice-president for academic affairs and dean of instruction, is chairing the committee this year. Although this year's planning effort is well under way, he said, there may be "a perspective that we have not considered."

"All of us are in danger of not seeing the forest for the trees," he said in a memo to the Bryant community.

The committee also includes professors Earl Briden, Bob Hehre, Chantee Lewis, Marie Cote, and Alan Olinsky, and administrators Bob Harrill, Alton Mott, Les LaFond, and Jo-Anne Lema. You can contact either of them or Patterson.

"We both value and need your input," Patterson says.

By the way...

by Gloria Yahn
Assistant Editor

- Art Blackman of the marketing department is walking on air these days because his son, Leo, has received additional recognition with his Blongo chair design. It is now permanently displayed in the Brooklyn Museum as an example of current chair design of contemporary plywood furniture.

- A welcome back to John Jolley of the social science department. John had an emergency appendectomy recently and is now recovered and back in class. All your friends at Bryant want you to know that you were missed, John.

- Carla Lace, SBDC office, and her husband, Jeffrey, are proud parents. Born on February 8, Kaitlyn Jennifer weighed 8 lbs. 13 ozs. A perfect Valentine present for any family. Congratulations Laces!

- Adrienne Rupp, 10-year-old daughter of Bill Rupp (my boss), has been selected as an apprentice dancer with the State Ballet of Rhode Island after the company's annual competitive auditions. Having seen Adrienne perform on her toes recently, I'd say with her looks and talent Dad is the one that should stay on his toes. Nice going, Adrienne!

- The May Breakfast Committee has been formed. Serving as co-chairs this year are Denise Joyce, public relations office, and Lynn Dawson, dean of student life office. Also serving on the committee are Debbie Keller, development office, and Merrie DeSisto, data processing department.