

EVERGREEN NEWS

A Neighborhood Newspaper Sponsored by VECA, Vollintine-Evergreen Community Association

Volume XIX, Number 1

January 1993

Rhodes College Launches Plans for Largest-Ever Construction Project

Rhodes College officials announced January 21, 1993, plans to build a \$17.4 million center for sports, fitness and extracurricular life. The Campus Life Center is being launched with \$8.9 million in gifts from a handful of alumni and friends of the college. It will be the largest construction project in Rhodes' history. A complex of buildings and playing fields, the Campus Life Center will be the hub of athletic, social and community life at the college, Rhodes officials say. It will be built in Rhodes' traditional collegiate Gothic style and will include 81,000 square feet of new construction and major renovation of 63,000 square feet of existing buildings.

Of the \$8.9 million Rhodes has received for the Campus Life Center, the leading gift is from the children of Mississippi native Catherine Wilkerson Bryan and from the business her late husband John Bryan, Sr. co-founded, Bryan Foods.

An expansive multi-purpose activities building--the largest of the two new buildings to be constructed in the Campus Life Center--will be named Bryan Hall in honor of Mrs. Bryan Sr., a civic leader in West Point, Miss.

"Bryan Hall means that students, faculty and staff can meet at last under one roof," said Rhodes Board of Trustees Chairman Winton Blount in announcing the gift. Currently

Rhodes has no room on campus that will hold even one-third of the student body. Large events held outdoors have no back-up site on campus if the weather is bad.

Rhodes alumnus John H. Bryan, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer of



Sara Lee Corporation, is one of Catherine Wilkerson Bryan's four children providing Bryan Hall in her honor. The other three are: Memphian George Wilkinson Bryan, Senior Vice President of Sara Lee; Caroline Bryan Harrell, a West Point, Miss., civic leader; and the family of her late daughter Catherine Bryan Dill, who are contributing to the project in her name.

In addition to the Bryan children, Bryan Foods of West Point, Miss., a major meat processing division of Sara Lee, is participating in the gift. Sara Lee's meat business, which includes Bryan Foods, Hillshire Farm & Kahn's, Jimmy Dean Foods, and others, is headquartered in Memphis.

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Bryan Hall will be a gathering place for conversation, recreation, fitness, and major college events. One of the leading features of the building is a multi-purpose forum the size of three basketball courts, spacious enough to seat 3,000 people and designed for a host of different uses from pick-up games of basketball to lectures by big-name speakers. The building also houses a lobby and dining area, a one-tenth mile indoor track, a game area and a large room for aerobic classes and student dances.


In addition to Bryan Hall, the Campus Life Center will provide a new athletics building housing a fitness center, a sport training facility and a corridor of offices for the athletic staff. Plans also call for dramatic renovation of Rhodes' William Neely Mallory Gymnasium, built in 1953, and the Ruth Sherman Hyde Gymnasium, built in 1971, as well as for new tennis courts and a renovation of other outdoor athletic facilities.

"For years many of the students we've recruited have come from high schools with better athletic facilities than Rhodes," said Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Mike Clary, admitting that Rhodes' current

facilities have put the college at a recruiting disadvantage with athletes. Today 60 percent of Rhodes' students participate in intramural and/or intercollegiate athletics. Many of the colleges with which Rhodes competes have recently built, or are in the process of building, facilities comparable to Rhodes' future Campus Life Center.

"We have to provide the quality of facilities and services that are expected of a college like Rhodes," said Clary. "The Campus Life Center will offer, for the first time in my 14-year career at Rhodes, a first-class place for athletes to dress, train and compete in their given sport." Renovations include a refurbished performance arena for intercollegiate basketball and volleyball, an Alumni Room for pre- and post-game festivities, new locker rooms, training facilities, racquetball and squash courts, and central air-conditioning throughout.

In addition to the Bryan gift, three Memphians who are Rhodes alumni and on the college's board of trustees have made significant gifts to the project: Margaret Ruffin Hyde, L. Palmer Brown, III, and J. Lester Crain. Their gifts and those of other contributors to the project will be recognized with the naming of major spaces and rooms on campus. Also committed to the project is a \$2.2 million endowment left to Rhodes by the late Rachel Milani Clough of Chicago and Pittsfield, Mass., permanently underwriting the maintenance of the new buildings.

Rhodes has hired the architectural firm of Hastings and Chivetta, based in St. Louis, to design the Campus Life Center. The design and engineering of the Campus Life Center will be complete in a year, Rhodes officials predict. Once the \$17.4 million funding is in hand, the college will break ground on the facility. Campus Life Center construction and renovation should take a year and half. 

EVERGREEN NEWS

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VECA Hotline: 276-1066

**TRIED 'N TRUE
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YOUR NEIGHBORS**



— **Start-a-New-Tradition Cookies** —

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 cup margarine | 1 cup quick cooking oats |
| 1 cup white sugar | 1 cup Rice Krispies |
| 1 cup brown sugar | 1 egg |
| 1/2 cup coconut | 1 cup vegetable oil |
| 1/2 cup pecans | 1 tsp baking soda |
| 3 1/2 cups flour | 1 tsp salt |
| 1 tsp vanilla | |

Blend the sugars with the softened margarine. Stir in egg, oil and vanilla. Sift the flour one cup at a time. Stir in remaining ingredients and blend well. Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet and bake at 325 degrees for 12 minutes.

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"All Are Welcome"

NEIGHBORHOOD FOCUS

A Development Corporation for VECA

VECA residents Mike Kirby and Rodell Milam have been working behind the scenes to educate themselves about creating a community development corporation for VECA. Mike has attended a 12-day workshop sponsored by United Way, local banks and the city of Memphis, while Rodell serves as the chairman of the Community Development Council of Greater Memphis.

Community development corporations are used extensively in many cities around the country, but they have only recently appeared in Memphis. A VECA corporation would target dilapidated real estate or areas with low levels of home ownership. It would buy this real estate, rehabilitate it and sell it to home owners.

A VECA community development corporation would still depend on private enterprise in the real estate market. It would target only those properties that are a problem to the community.

A development corporation would support other activities in the neighborhood and would work with the housing and historic preservation committees. It could also work with other groups, perhaps the youth of the neighborhood could share in the rehabilitation activities.

Creating a community development corporation will be a slow and deliberate process. The first stage is creating the legal structures needed to carry on these activities and obtaining the approval of the VECA executive committee. The second stage will be to write a plan for carrying on the activities. A third stage will be to create a board of directors that will revise the plan and guide the corporation. The fourth stage will be to raise funds. The fifth stage will be to employ an executive director. The sixth stage will be to begin rehabilitation and development.

If you are interested in serving on the board of the VECA Community Development Corporation, contact Mike Kirby at 679 N. Idlewild, Memphis, TN or leave a message on the VECA Hotline, 276-1066.

Some Tips on Preventing Burglaries and Crime in Our Neighborhood

by Paul Herron

With the ever increasing volumes of statistics on crime, people are beginning to wonder about the measures they should take to create a safe environment for themselves and their families. Here are a few tips about how to prevent crimes such as burglaries and physical assaults in your home.

The first thing to do to prevent burglaries is

to secure your home. You should start with good one-inch bolt locks on your doors. Also, make sure that your windows are locked or securely latched. The Crime Prevention Bureau of the Memphis City Police Department will send a trained officer to do a security survey of your home. The number to call is

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528-2192.

Many burglaries and unwanted entries occur simply because doors and windows are left unlocked. You should lock your doors, even if you are going out for only a short time or are working outside in the yard. Also, lock your doors when you are inside your home. Locking your doors not only prevents burglaries but it prevents you from possible finding someone inside your home that you didn't invite. Dealing with criminals inside your home can be much worse than burglaries.



When you are home do not unlock your

doors for strangers who claim to be utility, insurance, or goodwill representatives. Sincere and honest looking people asking for a few brief moments of your time can become unruly beasts once inside your home.

No, not all people who come to your door will have criminal intentions toward you but the probability that they may is too great to take a chance.

OK, all that I have suggested thus far does not mean that you should go inside, lock your doors, close your curtains, and become totally unaware of what is happening outside your home. This would be a serious mistake because it compromises the key component of overall neighborhood security. You should develop an awareness of who lives in your neighborhood and of anyone who may be walking or cruising through your neighborhood suspiciously looking for targets. Criminals depends on neighborhood intimidation and unawareness to engage in their activities. Neighborhood watch organizations work because criminals fear that they will be detected by citizens like you and me.



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Harold Simmons, Pastor

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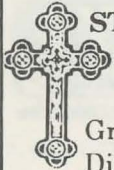
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VECA is a neighborhood organization made up of volunteers and paying members. The Evergreen News is the way in which VECA communicates with its residents. The Evergreen News contains information about VECA, neighborhood residents, business and government policies. VECA is bounded by Watkins on the West, Cypress Creek on the North, Trezevant on the East and North Parkway on the South. Contact VECA by writing to P.O. Box 12011, Memphis, TN, 38182-0011.