

## Challenge: Build a hospital safe for mentally ill children

Efforts by Bradley Hospital officials to balance the need to create a secure facility with the desire to provide a comforting environment led to yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony.

**BY FELICE J. FREYER**  
JOURNAL MEDICAL WRITER

**EAST PROVIDENCE** — Many more hours than they ever thought possible were spent on the question of toilets.

The hospital president and the medical director, in long committee meetings, puzzled over this question: wall-mounted or floor-mounted? If wall-mounted, the kids might jump on the toilets and break them off. If floor-mounted, it's hard to clean behind.

One model was quickly rejected: the one with which, at another hospital somewhere, a youngster wedged his head between the toilet and the wall and deliberately broke his own neck.

For Daniel J. Wall, president of Bradley Hospital, and Dr. Henry T. Sachs, med-

ical director, the daunting and thrilling task of designing a new psychiatric hospital for children involved many, many details. But not one of them was trivial.

Yesterday, Wall and Sachs were among the dignitaries at a ceremonial groundbreaking (with construction going on just feet away) for the \$31-million building on the hospital's grounds. They focused on the sunny side of the equation: that mentally ill children can get better, and that the new hospital's environment — with a private room for each child, and spacious gathering places — will be more suited to their needs than what Wall called the "cramped, outdated space" in the 77-year-old structure now in use.

But the months preceding yesterday's

event were consumed, first, with designing the hospital to ensure the safety of children who are very, very sick — children out of control, suicidal, enraged, depressed, confused, psychotic, traumatized, children often hell-bent on hurting themselves.

So those arched nozzle-free faucets and the recessed sprinkler system were selected because they have "no ligature risk" — that is, a string or a rope or shoelace tied around it will slip off, and no one can hang himself.

To sort through the myriad choices, the hospital convened a committee from every aspect of care and operations, including physicians, nurses, environmental services people and parents.

The toilets? It was a close call but the group decided on floor-mounted.

The beds — should they be bolted to



S/L/A/M COLLABORATIVE

New construction at Bradley Hospital appears in the foreground of the architect's illustration above.

SEE **BRADLEY, A11**



## A FAITH'S NEW VOICE

Pope Benedict XVI faces an American Catholic Church rocked by challenges unseen during the '79 papal visit



AP / GREGORIO BORGIA, top; FILE, above

Pope Benedict XVI, top, greets the faithful during a prayer in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican this month. Today, he begins his first U.S. visit as pope. Pope John Paul II, above, gestures to the crowd at New York's Shea Stadium, in 1979.

**BY JOHN E. MULLIGAN**  
JOURNAL WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON

**T**wenty-nine years ago a conservative new pope made history by saying Mass before tens of thousands of Americans on the National Mall between the Washington Monument and the Capitol, foreshadowing what proved to be an epic papacy with links to such momentous change as the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Today, Pope Benedict XVI — conservative and relatively new on the scene but very different from his predecessor in presence and personality — will begin a

pastoral journey to an American Catholic Church that has been wounded and challenged in ways unforeseen at the time of Pope John Paul II's "Mass on the Mall."

All the same, the Catholic Church in the United States is still the world's richest, still among the biggest and "still surprisingly vibrant," in the words of one Providence College scholar. The traditionalist pope, according to many observers, will encounter American Catholics hungry for guidance on how to live their faith in the modern world — and in the aftermath of a sex-abuse scandal and a wave of parish closings and other financial trials.

Benedict will also encounter a flock

that reflects the larger society, steeped in popular culture and consumerism but at the same time far more religious than its counterparts elsewhere in the industrialized world.

"The United States is a developed country with such pluralism — ethnically, religiously, even morally," said James F. Keating, an associate professor of theology at Providence College. "It's the only country in the world where all these things coexist in this way."

Therefore, Keating said he will closely watch and listen to Benedict for "signs as to whether he views the American church

SEE **POPE, A11**

## Soaring price of food felt worldwide

A host of causes are behind the increases which are shocking American consumers and sparking unrest in poorer nations.

JOURNAL WIRE REPORTS

Blame the Australian drought. Blame the shrinking dollar. Blame ethanol. Blame \$100-a-barrel oil. Blame China for finding prosperity.

Whatever's to blame, Americans are becoming acutely aware that food prices are soaring.

The United States is wrestling with the worst food inflation in 17 years, and analysts expect new data due tomorrow to show it's getting worse. That's putting the squeeze on everyone, but especially poor families. It's forcing every business that serves food, from bakeries to four-star restaurants, to raise their prices.

U.S. food prices rose 4 percent last year, compared with an average 2.5 percent annual rise for the last 15 years, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture. And the agency says this year could be worse, with prices rising another 4.5 percent.

Some of the price increases have been eye-popping. Eggs cost 25 percent more in February than

SEE **FOOD, A8**

## Scientists blame Titanic sinking on inferior rivets

In new research, scientists say an overburdened shipbuilder settled on substandard rivets, imperiling the massive ocean liner.

**BY WILLIAM J. BROAD**  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

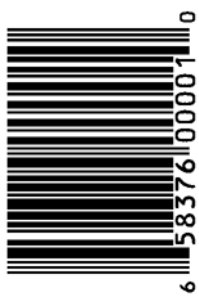
Scientists have discovered that the builder of the Titanic struggled for years to obtain enough rivets and riveters and ultimately settled on faulty materials that doomed the ship, which sank 96 years ago today.

The builder's own archive, the two scientists say, harbors evidence of a deadly mix of low-quality rivets and lofty ambition as the builder labored to construct the world's three biggest ships at once — the Titanic and two sisters, Olympic and Britannic.

For a decade, scientists have argued that the storied liner went down fast after hitting the iceberg because the ship's builder used substandard rivets that popped their heads and let tons of icy seawater rush in. More than 1,500 people died.

When the safety of the rivets was first questioned

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### INSIDE TODAY

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6 SECTIONS

Ask Amy	F6	Lotteries	C4
Business	E1	Obituaries	D4
Classified	E5	People	F1
Comics	F7	Poker	F6
Crossword	F6	Rhode Island	B1
Editorial	B4	Sports	C1
Legal ads	B3	Television	F5
Lifebeat	F1	What's Happening	F6
Local News	D1		

### POLICE EXAM CANCELED

Providence Police Chief Dean M. Esserman cancels a promotional examination for sergeant because confidential information about the exam allegedly had been leaked to one of the candidates for promotion.  
**B2**

### SUICIDE NOTE RECOVERED

The police say that the man who, along with his wife, was found dead in a burning house in Cumberland last week left a suicide note. **B1**



### URI CUTTING BACK ON SPORTS

Facing an \$800,000 budget cut for the fiscal year starting July 1, URI eliminates men's tennis, men's swimming and field hockey from its varsity lineup. **C1**

### AIRLINES TO MERGE

Delta Air Lines and Northwest Airlines, both of which serve T.F. Green Airport, agree to a multibillion-dollar deal that would create the world's biggest carrier and could trigger other airlines to pursue mergers of their own. **A2, E1**