

Capsules

ND using aborted fetuses?

Washington — Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a former abortion physician who is now a pro-life advocate, has alleged that the University of Notre Dame is among several universities allowing scientific research on tissue from aborted fetuses.

But two Notre Dame officials told National Catholic News Service that although one scientist at the school was formerly involved in use of such tissue, the practice is no longer allowed under the policy of the university's Protection of Human Subjects Committee.

Nathanson referred to Notre Dame in a recent address at a Delaware pro-life conference in Wilmington and in a February interview on a radio program of the Christian Broadcasting Network. He also was interviewed on the evangelical television program "The 700 Club."

In a study of Tay Sachs disease, research was conducted by Dr. Subhash Basu of Notre Dame's chemistry department on a cell culture derived from tissue of an aborted fetus.

Fiscal loss, spiritual gain

Phoenix, Ariz. — The majority of dioceses and archdioceses that hosted the U.S. visit of Pope John Paul II last September found that the event was not without cost, but also not without gain.

Only the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Texas, showed a financial gain on the visit, \$198,000.

Other dioceses posted losses ranging from \$82,000 for the Diocese of Phoenix to \$1.5 million for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. But representatives of the planners in each city said they had no regrets for having hosted the pope.

"We have a gain, but it's not in money," said Monsignor John McMahon, Phoenix visit coordinator. "The fruits of the visit will go on and on."

Gays sign pact with school

Washington — Georgetown University and homosexual student groups have formalized an agreement giving the groups the same benefits other student organizations receive, yet affirming the Jesuit-run school's right to refuse them official recognition.

The March 29 signing of a consent order by District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Sylvia Bacon ended an eight-year battle between the university and the homosexual student groups, which had charged Georgetown with discrimination.

The university had argued that as a Roman Catholic institution it could not recognize a group whose positions violated Church teachings.

The signing of the consent order means that Georgetown will not ask the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.



UPI-Reuters/NC News

Panamanians protest the continuation of military rule during a rally in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral in Panama City.

Panamanian bishops seek ouster of Noriega

Panama City, Panama (NC) — The Panamanian bishops' conference, which had stayed neutral through more than nine months of political turmoil, has called for the resignation of Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's military chief and de facto ruler who has been accused of drug dealing.

At the same time, the bishops said Archbishop Marcos G. McGrath of Panama City is prepared to mediate between government and opposition leaders.

Bishop Daniel E. Nunez of David, Panama, read the bishops' statement to reporters in Panama City March 29. The bishops said that the previous week they had asked Noriega to "separate himself from his position as soon as possible."

The nine-member conference said its request stemmed from "the urgent need to clarify the legitimacy of the executive authority of the nation, as it remains unrecognized at present by large sectors within and outside the country."

In February, Noriega spurned a demand for his resignation from Panamanian President Eric Arturo Delvalle — who had been installed by the general. In turn, Noriega supporters in the legislature — the majority — voted to strip Delvalle of his office. The United States and other nations, however, continue to recognize the deposed president as the legitimate chief executive of Panama.

The statement was issued the day after government troops used tear gas and water cannon to break up a march by about 5,000 anti-government protesters and raided an international hotel to arrest dozens of opposition leaders and journalists.

As early as last November, Panamanian

clergy had offered to mediate the conflict between the government and opposition leaders.

During a March 28 meeting in neighboring Costa Rica, Archbishop McGrath was proposed as a mediator. The meeting, which focused on the Panama situation, included Costa Rican President Oscar Arias Sanchez and Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez of Spain.

"The Church has always been ready to offer its services in the search for peaceful and constructive solutions," said the March 29 bishops' statement. "For this reason, the Panamanian bishops' conference is willing to support this initiative, if both sides accept it positively."

Auxiliary Bishop Oscar Brown Jimenez of

Panama City said Church leaders had been in contact with the government, the military and political opposition, and initial reactions were "positive."

Archbishop McGrath repeatedly has refused to be drawn into what he has called "partisan fighting," but has urged people to work for "the necessary political changes."

Caritas, the archdiocesan charitable agency, has distributed food to nearly 7,000 Panamanian families, as closed banks and a protest strike against Noriega created a cash and food crisis.

The strikes and bank closings were part of an effort to force the resignation of Noriega, who has been indicted in Miami on several drug-related charges.

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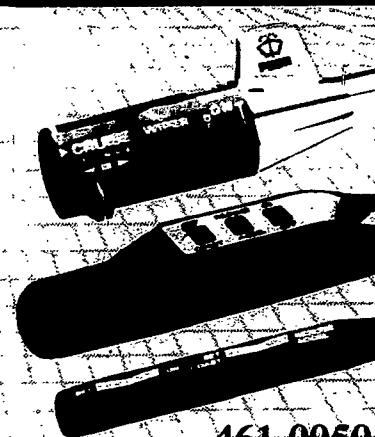
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