

Fired teacher alleges she was 'too Catholic'

CHICAGO — A former DePaul University faculty member has filed a federal civil rights suit against the Vincentian-run Catholic school alleging that she was denied a teaching post and eventually fired because she is too Catholic. Lynne C. Boughton filed suit in U.S. District Court saying the Chicago university mistreated her because her Catholic beliefs are more orthodox than those of other faculty members. DePaul University officials declined to comment on the case but gave general explanations of the school's philosophy. "DePaul acknowledges its responsibility to remain faithful to the Catholic message drawn from authentic religious sources, both traditional and contemporary," said a statement from Vincentian Father John P. Minogue, university president.

Pittsburgh man donates \$10 million to diocese

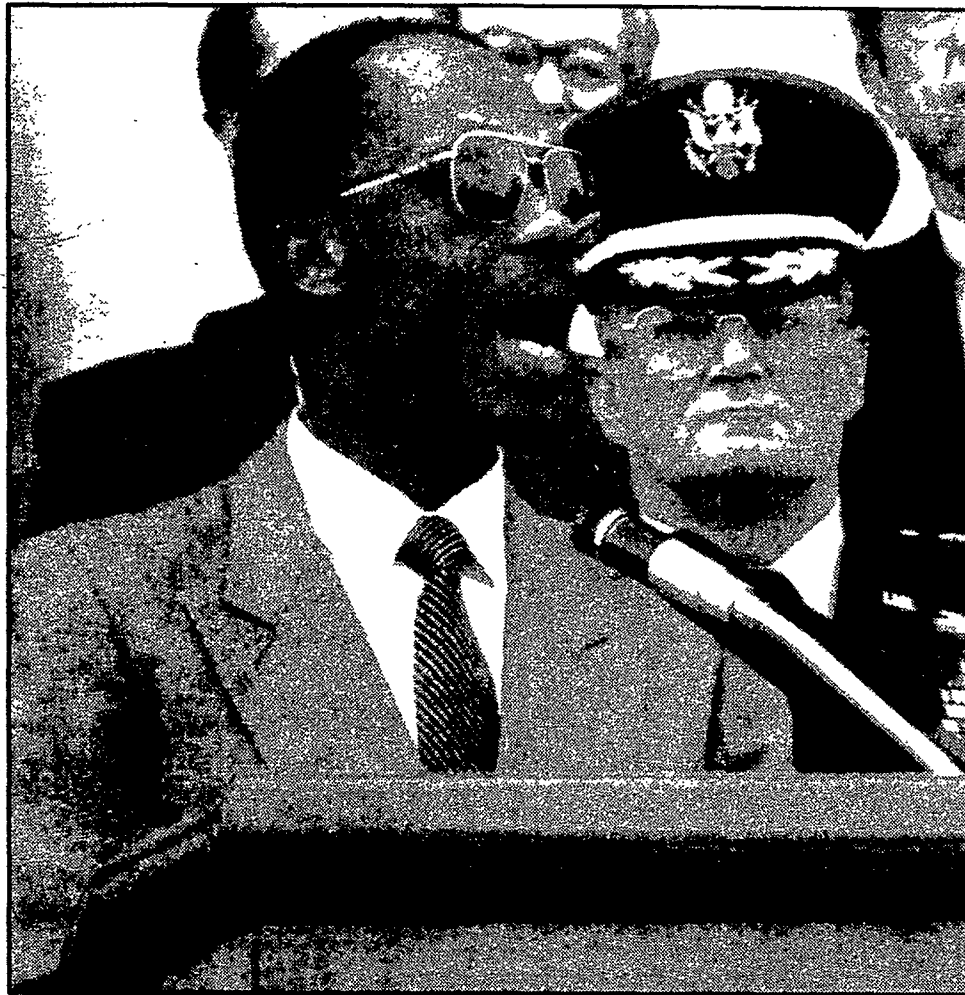
PITTSBURGH — Pittsburgh businessman John E. Connelly has given the Pittsburgh diocese a \$10 million endowment to provide tuition assistance in Catholic schools for families in financial need. It is believed to be the largest single gift ever made in the United States for Catholic school tuition aid. "I think education is the key to all the problems — moral, financial, social and spiritual — of the country and our society," Connelly told the *Pittsburgh Catholic*, diocesan newspaper. Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh announced the gift at a dinner in Washington-Sept. 12. At the dinner, Connelly, chairman of J. Edward Connelly Associates, was given the Seton Award by the National Catholic Educational Association, for previous contributions to Catholic education.

Vatican says women deserve more rights

VATICAN CITY — In a preparatory document for an international conference on women in 1995, the Vatican said women deserve better protection against violence, subsidies for homemakers and greater access to political positions. At the same time, the Vatican warned that one of the greatest obstacles facing many women today is the burden of poverty and lack of education. The Vatican outlined its position in a document presented in Geneva this summer to the United Nations, which is organizing the Fourth World Conference on Women, to be held in Beijing in September of next year.

Anglican group predicts split over women priests

LONDON — An organization of Anglicans has voted to reject the authority of bishops who ordain women and said the controversy will split the Church of England. Some 525 of the 530 delegates to the national assembly of Forward in Faith, meeting in London Sept. 16-17, adopted the position which says a degree of separation within the church is "inevitable" because of the "deliberate experiment and declared uncertainty" involved in ordaining women. The break in communion would be open and public, it said.



Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide speaks outside the Pentagon Sept. 21 after a meeting to discuss Operation Restore Democracy. Father Aristide thanked President Clinton for leading the effort to return him to power in Haiti. Joint Chiefs Gen. John Shalikashvili (at right) looks on.

AP/Wide World Photos

Mayor in Haiti hopes for quick return to office

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — The legitimate mayor of Port-au-Prince, a supporter of exiled president Father Jean-Bertrand Aristide, said he hopes to return to his job for the first time in three years thanks to the presence of American troops.

But Evans Paul warned that the impoverished Caribbean country's political crisis has not been resolved by the peaceful U.S. occupation, and the Haitian military leaders who seized power in 1991 must leave the country.

"There is an atmosphere of greater freedom, but insecurity persists and there are still armed bands in the streets," Paul told a news conference Sept. 24.

Paul said his allies are still in hiding and he is not sure he can resume his functions as the city's mayor.

"I plan to return to the town hall next week," he said. "We must prepare for the return of Aristide... the city is so dirty."

He said he has received threats that he will be killed if he shows up at the town hall, even if U.S. troops are in Port-au-Prince.

Pope aging under media's watchful eye

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Those who have followed Pope John Paul II for many years can close their eyes and see his trademark gesture: feet planted firmly, arms outstretched to the crowd and a wry smile on his face.

But lately, that image has been supplanted by another, less majestic one: This pope walks with a cane, occasionally winces in pain and has been known to rest his chin on his chest when he reads his speeches.

Like everyone, the Polish-born pope is growing older. Like few before him, he is growing older under the magnifying lens of the global media and the watchful eyes of his aides.

At 74, Pope John Paul has seen a change in the chemistry that worked so well in earlier years: the marriage of papal charisma and the media spotlight. The TV cameras are still rolling, but today they reveal the inevitable ebb of physical energy in a man who has put in long hours his entire career.

His recent injuries — a shoulder separation last November, a broken thigh bone last April — have slowed the pope down noticeably. His slow-healing leg forced him to cancel an October visit to the United Nations and three U.S. cities; some Vatican officials were relieved that a hobbling pope would not be put on display.

In early September, arriving for an overnight visit to Croatia, he could not bend over to kiss the ground, another of his trademark gestures. Instead, a bowl of earth was lifted up to the pontiff. When he ascended the altar in Zagreb, the Croatian capital, he chose not to walk up the steps but rode a specially constructed elevator out of public view.

U.S. prelates who have seen the pope in person say he looks and sounds good. But in public, with his face often hid-

den by his hand in meditation, and with a voice that no longer rings out sharply, it's easy to get a different impression.

At an audience with pilgrims at the Vatican Sept. 21, the pope inched along the receiving line, a curved figure leaning on a thin black cane. He gingerly made his way to the oversized papal throne, where he sat looking rather uncomfortable for more than an hour, then needed help going down four steps afterward.

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Doctors and curial officials say the pope's general health is good, but that his two falls have made him much more tentative in public. They say the pope is quite conscious of his changing image, and that can have a negative effect.

"I think the day he doesn't feel like he's being examined every time he takes a step, he'll walk just fine," said one member of the pope's medical team who asked not to be identified.

The doctor said the pope had assured him he had never felt pain in the right hip, where reconstructive surgery was performed in April. He said the pope may still occasionally feel discomfort in the leg, especially as he gets used to walking regularly again, but that this was not considered a serious medical problem. Meanwhile, the pontiff was swimming at his summer villa outside Rome and managed to walk more than two miles at a time during his summer stay in the Italian mountains, he said.

"My advice is don't watch how he walks — and then you'll see that he walks

much better," the doctor said with a laugh.

But it's hard not to notice how the pope is moving these days. Photographers still follow him everywhere, and papal well-being is often judged on the basis of a few seconds of video footage. What many people don't realize is that, like the rest of the world, most Vatican officials see the pope more on TV than in real life, too. If news broadcasts show the pope on an off day, questions about papal health begin to whisper through curial offices.

In recent remarks about aging, the pope offered some insight into how he may be approaching his own status as a "senior citizen." Particularly in the church, he said, the older person can still make important contributions "even when advancing age imposes the reduction or suspension" of physical activities.

"We should remember, as old people, that with health problems and the decline of our physical strength, we are particularly associated with Christ in his passion and on the cross," he said.

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