

NEWS BRIEFING

A LOOK AT THIS MORNING'S HEADLINES

Church says it will go to court to ensure tapes' destruction

NORTHWEST
PORTLAND (AP) — To forgive may be divine, but the Roman Catholic Church says it also will go to court to see that the tapes and transcripts of a jailhouse confession are destroyed.

The Archdiocese of Portland accepted the apology of Lane County District Attorney Doug Harclerod, who admitted his office was wrong to tape the conversation between a priest and a triple-murder suspect. The tapes and transcripts have been turned over to Circuit Court Judge Kip Leonard.

The archdiocese said Thursday it will ask the judge to destroy the tapes and transcripts of the April 22 Sacrament of Reconciliation between the Rev. Timothy Mockaitis and Conan Wayne Hale.

The taping of the conversation spurred widespread criticism from religious and civil liberty groups as a violation of religious freedom. Maslowsky said church officials in Rome have been kept abreast of the situation.

No one, not even the pope, is entitled to listen to the taped confession under Roman Catholic doctrine, said the Rev. Michael Maslowsky, director of pastoral services for the archdiocese.

Only one-quarter of Americans can pass the science exam

NATIONAL
WASHINGTON (AP) — Less than half of American adults understand that the Earth orbits the sun yearly, according to a basic science survey. Despite flubbing such questions, there is enthusiasm for research — except in some fields such as genetic engineering and nuclear power that are viewed with suspicion.

Only about 25 percent of American adults got passing grades in a survey by the National Science Foundation of what people know about basic science and economics. Even fewer felt they were well-informed about technical subjects.

The worst showing came when those surveyed were asked to define scientific terms. Only about 9 percent knew what a molecule was, and only 21 percent could define DNA.

But even more fundamental questions stumped many: Less than half knew that the Earth orbits the sun annually.

"Only 10 percent feel very well informed about science and technology, and studies show that only a small segment of the population has a strong grasp of basic scientific ideas," according to a report, released Thursday by the foundation.

100,000 detained Latin Americans still missing, activists say

WORLD
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — At least 100,000 people detained by security forces in Latin America during the last two decades remain missing, and few of their abductors have been punished, a human-rights group said Thursday.

"They still haven't given an answer as to where they are," said Sister Maria del Carmen Pariente of the Latin American Federation of Associations for Relatives of the Detained and Disappeared, or Fedefam.

Military dictatorships or repressive civilian governments in Argentina, Chile, El Salvador, Guatemala and other countries detained opponents and others during the 1970s and 1980s to curb political dissent.

Pariente, the group's executive secretary, said many of the people kidnapped by state agents or groups linked to them never appeared again alive.

Some have been found in mass graves in recent years, but they are a small fraction of the total, Pariente said in an interview.

The group's figures are based on reports from non-governmental human-rights and church groups and associations of relatives of the disappeared.

Meeting: Special requests approved

Union and the *Oregon Voice*. The BSU asked for \$1,474 to bring Emery Barnes, the first black speaker of the British Parliament, to campus for the group's commencement ceremony on June 14. Their request was approved in full.

The *Oregon Voice's* request for \$400 to cover printing costs for the publication's final issue for the school year, was also approved in full. According to the publication's special request form, the request was made because printing prices have increased more than 40 percent since the group's budget hearing for this school year.

The ASUO Programs Finance Committee requested a \$675 transfer from its payroll line item

to line items for printing and duplication and office supplies. Money was left over in the payroll account because a member of the PFC received work-study money, Anderson said. The Senate approved the request in full, and the money will be used to pay for 1996-97 budget books and other PFC supplies.

The Senate also reviewed and approved the goal statement of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association.

The Philosophy Club was also scheduled to go before the Senate for the hearing of a special request, but the group failed to appear at the meeting.

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