

# LIFE



Benedict

## Pope to meet with leaders

— Representatives of five non-Christian faiths will meet with Pope Benedict XVI during his first U.S. visit as pontiff next month.

The 45-minute event on April 17 at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington will include a papal address, greetings from the faith leaders and a presentation of gifts symbolic of each tradition by young members of the respective communities.

There will be no formal dialogue among participants because of time constraints on the pope's schedule, said Sister Mary Ann Walsh, spokeswoman for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The interfaith gathering includes 200 invited guests, and Benedict is scheduled to meet personally with three Jewish leaders, three Muslim leaders, two Buddhist leaders, a Hindu leader and a Jain leader.

## Muslim forced to leave mall

A Muslim housewife says her civil rights were violated by a security guard who she said forced her to leave a suburban New Orleans shopping mall when she refused to remove her religious headscarf.

Muntaha Sarsour, 54, and her daughter-in-law, Sajedah Judeh, 23, had just bought Chick-Fil-A takeout at the mall food court when an Oakwood Shopping Center security guard allegedly stopped Sarsour and told her to remove her headscarf.

"He told her she had two options: Either she take off her headscarf or leave the mall," said Judeh, speaking on behalf of her mother-in-law, who does not speak English well.

Judeh said she then confronted the guard and told him that a Muslim in a headscarf "shouldn't be new to you."

The mall's senior general manager, Lynn Walters, said steps are being made to make sure "this type of occurrence never happens again."

The FBI is looking into the case, FBI spokeswoman Sheila Thorne said.

## GOOD NEWS



Rochon

**Jared Scott Rochon** from Troop 67 earned Eagle Scout rank recently. For his Eagle project, Rochon designed and managed the construction of two coat- and backpack-storage units for special-needs students at Heritage Middle School. All materials and labor were donated.

Rochon graduated from Skyline High School and is now attending the Leeds School of Business at the University of Colorado in Boulder.

**"It's not an easy task, but we work and pray together and we become a family."**

— Tim Thompson, 17, who portrays Jesus in "The Way of the Cross"



The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Michael the Archangel parish in Aurora present "The Way of the Cross" tonight at St. Francis of Assisi. Special to the Times-Call

Group from Aurora presents Christ's final days with show tonight in Longmont

# Passion of the Teens

**L**ONGMONT — Most teenagers spend their Friday nights with friends or perhaps at a part-time job.

A group of Denver-area teens, however, chooses to spend Fridays portraying scenes from the Easter story — from Jesus accepting his cross to his mother, Mary, cradling his crucified body.

The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Michael the Archangel parish in Aurora will present "The Way of the Cross" at 7:30 tonight at St. Francis of Assisi, 2410 Trade Centre Ave.

The Aurora parish has performed these mystery plays since 2002.

"It's not an easy task, but we work and pray together and we become a family," said Tim Thompson, 17, who portrays Jesus.

The Franciscan Mystery Plays are dramatic multimedia presentations of biblical stories, such as "The Way of the Cross," "The Birth of Jesus" and "Jesus, the Healer."

These free presentations, which are open to the public, are offered in several churches in the Denver area, as well as the northeast United States, during the Advent and Lenten seasons of the Roman Catholic Church.

The players ask for dona-

## MYSTERY PLAN



**What:** The Franciscan Mystery Players of St. Michael the Archangel parish in Aurora will present "The Way of the Cross" at the following dates, times and locations.

**When and where:** 7:30 p.m. March 7 at St. Francis of Assisi, 2410 Trade Centre Ave. in Longmont  
 • 7:30 p.m. March 14 at St. Louis in Louisville  
 • 7:30 p.m. March 16 at St. Michael the Archangel in Aurora  
 • March 20 at Regis High School in Centennial.  
 Time to be announced.

**Cost:** Performances are free and open to the public, though donations are encouraged.

**Information:** Contact Sandy Rieley at 303-690-6797.

tions because they are a non-profit organization, founded more than 25 years ago in a New York parish by a Franciscan priest who was trying to bolster church attendance during Lent.

Currently, 11 Franciscan Mystery Players groups exist in the northeast United States,

Colorado, California and Florida.

In "The Way of the Cross," characters obscure their faces and don't speak, relying on lighting and sound to foster prayer and meditation.

St. Michael's performs the plays during the Lent season; the last show is March 20.

Thompson, who has portrayed Jesus for four years, joined the group because he admired his older sister's involvement with the players.

He said the performances are "emotionally powerful." "It's a living prayer, and as I'm going through it, I'm praying," he said.

"This is a chance to show that teenagers have the capacity to be faithful and to be good, you know?" said Samantha Chamberlain, 16, who has portrayed Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Veronica, a woman who wipes the blood off Jesus' face as he carries the cross to his crucifixion.

"And for those students who aren't necessarily involved in their faith, this is a good chance for them to get involved."

To prepare for the performance, Chamberlain said, she reads devotional cards and tries to demonstrate the qualities of these biblical women, such as caring and compassion, in her own life.

"Once I started doing this, I realized it was way more fun than anything I would be doing on a Friday night," she said. "I'm spending time with friends, coming closer to God and having fun."

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Story by Melanie M. Sidwell • Longmont Times-Call

# Christian music scene evolves

By Terry Mattingly  
Scripps Howard News Service

The first time Jay Swartzendruber held a compact disc, he wondered if music fans would miss the artwork, readable lyrics and other goodies that came inside old-fashioned album covers.

Years later, industry insiders started talking about selling music online and it was *deja vu* all over again. The voice in his head said, "Fans will forego CD art and packaging altogether? You seriously believe that?"

Swartzendruber also likes reading magazines he can hold in his hands, especially when it's the one that he runs. But that's changing, too.

After 30 years of defining a subculture it helped create, CCM Magazine is facing its last press run. After April, it will appear online — period.

"On one level, this is just part of what is happening everywhere," said the 40-year-old editor. "Lots of magazines are moving online. But there's more to it this time and everybody knows it. This is part of even bigger changes in the whole Christian music business."

For decades, CCM stood for "contemporary Christian music," while executives debated precisely what that meant. It helps to know that Nashville is a place where judgments about the state of an artist's career can be based on theology as well as sales.

In the beginning, CCM meant pop tunes that youth choirs could sing in church.

But over time, some artists ventured into heavy metal and alternative rock, while others dug back into country and rhythm and blues.

During one identity crisis a decade ago, the Gospel Music Association — focusing on lyrics — struggled to establish criteria for its Dove Awards.

"Gospel music," it proclaimed, "is music in any style whose lyric is: substantially based upon historically orthodox Christian truth contained in or derived from the Holy Bible; and/or an expression of worship of God or praise for His works; and/or testimony of relationship with God through Christ; and/or obviously prompted and informed by a Christian world view."

Industry leaders predicted a bright future. They cited huge Soundscan sales numbers in 2001, but that included mainstream records — such as the "O Brother Where Art Thou" soundtrack — that sold in Christian as well as mainstream stores.

Those numbers looked great, but a revolution was taking place backstage.

Bands like P.O.D., Sixpence None the Richer, MercyMe, Chevelle, Switchfoot, The Fray, MXPX, Mute Math and others were jumping into the mainstream. Some artists ignored the CCM scene altogether or fought for their legal right to escape.

Realists could see several trends by 2003. The first was

Please see **MUSIC** on C2

# TG&Y was actually the 'five and dime' store on Main

**JSV**  
Johnnie  
St. Vrain

## DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION?

Write to Johnnie St. Vrain in care of the Times-Call, P.O. Box 299, Longmont 80502, or e-mail johnnie@times-call.com.

**Dear Readers:** I stand corrected and entertained by many readers who wrote and called in to correct the Feb. 27 column stating that the "five and dime" store on Main Street was W.T. Grant. It was, indeed, TG&Y, as many readers pointed out. W.T. Grant was a tenant in the center, but it appears from readers' descriptions that it had more of the character of a department store than a "dime store." Thanks to all who shared their memories of riding their bikes up there with sisters, brothers and friends; referred to the store as "turtles, girdles and yo-yos" and "toys, games and yo-yos"; and reveled in the breadth of the retail experience the store offered.

TG&Y, named for founders Thom-

linson, Gosselin and Young, was founded in Oklahoma City in 1935. At its peak, the company boasted more than 900 stores.

Those of us of a certain age are reminded of other "five and dimes," such as F.W. Woolworth & Co. and the Ben Frankin Stores. — JOHN-NIE

**Dear Johnnie:** Recently you had information in your column about pruning lilac bushes, saying that now is a good time and advising that we take old canes and not more than one-third of the bush. Can I trim my other bushes in the same way? — CURIOUS

**Dear Curious:** Yes, most of the blooming plants that are multi-

caned can be pruned now and in this way, including elderberries, dogwood and forsythia.

**Dear Johnnie:** The intersection lights at Ken Pratt Boulevard and Main Street leave much to be desired. When you are traveling south on Main Street and would like to make a left turn onto Ken Pratt Boulevard, the green arrow lasts just a few seconds, barely enough time for a few cars to get through, and that's if the person in front of the line is paying attention. During rush hour, traffic gets so backed up, it looks like there is no end in sight. Can this be remedied? — IMPATIENT LEFT TURNER

**Dear Impatient:** According to

the city's traffic division, 11 seconds of "green time" are allocated to the north-south left-turn arrows on weekday peak hours; on weekends and other off-peak times, that drops to seven seconds. During busy times, cars back up in both the turn lanes and the through lanes. Making the turn-lane "green time" longer will increase backup problems elsewhere, so the city tries to allocate time as equitably as it can to minimize the overall delay at the intersection.

The city tells Johnnie that it's studying ways to increase the capacity of the intersection. The city might be able to ease congestion somewhat there in the near future, but it will likely take more than adjustments to signal timing to do it.