CRISIS LOOMING?
Nursing Shortage Becomes Critical

Bankruptcy and 'Means-Testing'
Back to the Big Bang?
Santee Dentist
Nursing Shortage
The United States is in the early stages of a potentially dangerous nursing shortage. By the year 2020, the U.S. could face a shortage of some 290,000 nurses. How will this shortage affect patient care? What is Creighton’s School of Nursing doing to address the problem? Find out, beginning on page 4.

Bankruptcy and ‘Means-Testing’
With personal bankruptcies reaching record levels, federal legislation is in the works to apply “means testing” to individuals filing for Chapter 7. Is this the answer? Creighton law professors Marianne Culhane and Michaela White weigh in on the issue, starting on Page 10.

Back to the Big Bang?
Creighton physics professors will join a team of scientists from around the world this summer in search of a state of matter thought to be present microseconds after the Big Bang. For more on the story, see Page 14.

Santee Dentist
Creighton dentist Dr. Joe Kelly and his wife, Nev, find peace and a place for spiritual reflection working and living on the Santee Indian Reservation in northeast Nebraska. Page 20.

Agnew Hall also housed men
I read with interest the article about residence halls on Creighton’s campus. I note that the article states that Agnew Hall housed female students in the late ’50s and early ’60s. I was a resident assistant (“proctor” in those days) for the 1961-1962 school year and the fall semester of 1962. During that period Agnew Hall housed about 35 freshman male students. In 1961-1962, Father Barger was the resident hall advisor, and, in the fall of 1962, Father Harold J. McAuliffe was the resident hall advisor. One of my law school classmates was L. Paul Comeau. Paul was a “proctor” at Dowling Hall and Father McGloin was the dorm director. I recall many pleasant visits with Father McGloin at Dowling Hall and am pleased that the newest residence hall has been named in his honor. Many former students also will recall that directly across the street from Agnew Hall was the Chancery office for the Omaha Archdiocese. Thanks for the interesting article.

Vincent J. Horn Jr., Law ’64
Highlands Ranch, Colo.

Fr. Dorsey loved his Bluejays
As the members of the Bluejay men’s basketball team played their hearts out this spring and waltzed their way into the “Big Dance” (aka, the NCAA Tournament), there was one seat in Section 55 at the auditorium that was empty. For so many years, going back to the first games the Jays played in the auditorium, that seat had been occupied by Fr. Larry Dorsey — most recently pastor at Saint Gerald’s parish in Omaha. This great Bluejay booster died suddenly on the eve of Saint Patrick’s Day in 1998.

His Creighton connections were intense and cherished. For 17 years, he...
Fr. Dorsey’s 39 years of service as a priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha included many pastoral and teaching assignments. He was one of the founders of the Dominican High School in the inner city, which later became Flanagan High School. At his funeral, more than 1,000 people overflowed the church — most of them in some way had been touched by his compassionate skills as a pastor.

Fr. Larry drove a “Bluejay blue” car and even wanted to put “Bluejay blue” carpet in the church at St. Gerald’s. (He was overruled!) In the last three years of his life, he oversaw construction of the beautiful new Saint Gerald’s Church at 96th and Q streets in Omaha.

There’s no question in my mind, if they dance in heaven, this spring, Fr. Larry danced with great joy when his beloved Bluejays were invited to the “Big Dance!”

Father William Fitzgerald
Scottsdale, Ariz.
MARE’73

Creighton University’s Quarterly Magazine is Growing Up

You are holding the final issue of WINDOW. Starting in the fall of 1999, you will begin receiving Creighton University Magazine, which will combine the best of WINDOW and Creighton University Alumnews. The new publication will be bigger, better, easier to use and it will do a better job of informing a broad public about Creighton.

Why change the name?

Creighton University needs to be more aggressive in promoting its identity. WINDOW has done a wonderful job since its inception in the fall of 1984. But there always has been some confusion about the title. Some people called it “Windows.” To many people outside of the immediate Creighton community, “WINDOW” (or “Windows”) says more about a large software company than it does about this great University.

In addition to alumni, we send this magazine to United States Senators, members of Congress, other elected officials and parents of students. If it ends up in the reception area of a Capitol Hill office in Washington, D.C., or on the coffee table in a home where visitors might not be familiar with us, we want people to see a big, bold CREIGHTON.

Such impressions are important.

Creighton University Magazine, like the University, will be comprehensive in scope. You will receive the magazine quarterly, in the fall, winter, spring and summer.

The new magazine will preserve the content you have enjoyed in the pages of WINDOW. Those stories will be combined into one easy-to-find section. In addition, the important alumni news that you previously received in Alumnews will be offered in Creighton University Magazine.

Within the new magazine’s 56 glossy, colorful pages, you will find:

- A redesigned easy-to-read table of contents.
- An expanded Letters to the Editor section.
- A column by the Rev. Michael G. Morrison, S.J., Creighton University president.
- In-depth and insightful articles such as those published in WINDOW, on myriad topics, written by professional and faculty authors.
- Features on Creighton alumni, Jesuits, faculty and other members of the Creighton community.
- Expanded class notes.
- Important alumni news, including dates and schedules for alumni events on and off campus.
- Opinion pieces from faculty experts.
- General news about Creighton.

We are excited about this new publication, which will capture the breadth and spirit of Creighton University and the people and ideals behind it. When WINDOW was introduced, you were told:

“In short, one goal of the magazine will be to provide compelling and persuasive information that is both useful and uplifting. A quality image will be projected by the magazine in all that it undertakes, through the writing it contains, through its appearance, and through the photography that illuminates its pages.”

There will be no deviation from that course.

Stephen T. Kline
Executive Editor
Crisis Looming?

Nursing Shortage

The numbers don’t grab you, until you reach out for a helping hand at your hospital bedside. Just when and if someone is there to help you is the focus of a national health care debate. The United States is in the early stages of a potentially dangerous nursing shortage. According to a 1997 report by the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP) to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, by the year 2010, there will be 18,000

By John C. Glenn

Nurse Diane Bantz checks a monitor in the neonatal intensive care nursery at The Women’s Hospital in Indianapolis in this 1995 photo. Nationally, labor and delivery and intensive care are two areas in critical need of more nurses.
more openings than there are nurses to fill them. By 2015, the shortage will grow to 114,000. When the clock strikes 2020, the U.S. could face a shortage of 291,000 nurses.

The shortage is already being felt by hospitals and patients in this country and abroad. The Los Angeles Times reports that Southern California has more than 800 job openings for nurses. The Herald in Glasgow reports that The Royal College of Nursing in Scotland estimates there will be 8,000 vacancies in 1999, all while the Canadian Nursing Association predicts a shortage of up to 100,000 nurses by 2005, according to the Buffalo News.

The shortage is even stretching to the heartland of the United States. Omaha, Neb., has more than 300 full-time nursing openings in a very competitive health care market, and this “official” estimate may actually be low.

It is difficult to pin down a precise number, because some hospitals would not discuss the issue. After cross-checking the numbers released by several hospital human resource departments with openings posted on hospital bulletin boards and ads in the local papers and on the Internet, it appears the number of openings for nurses in Omaha may be much higher.

What do all these numbers mean to patients? They mean that the quantity and quality of patient care could suffer.

A 1998 study by the U.S. Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (AHCPR) showed that there is a direct link between the number of full-time equivalent registered nurses and the incidence of infection. The report, published in the nursing journal Image, stated that the fewer the number of full-time R.N.’s a hospital has, the greater the incidence of urinary tract infection, pneumonia, thrombosis and pulmonary congestion following major surgery.

Patients should take note, says one of the study’s researchers. “I think it would concern me,” said Christine Kovner, Ph.D., R.N., an associate professor with New York University and senior research scholar for the AHCPR study.

“As a patient, I would want more information about what staffing was like in the hospital. In fact, when you’re in the hospital it’s the nurses who are there 24 hours a day, so I ought to be wor-

ried about what kind of nurses a hospital has,” said Kovner.

Nurses working in the profession have definite opinions on the shortage but many do not want to go public with their comments because of fear of retribution from the health care agencies who employ them.

One veteran nurse of 20 years says the shortage is a real concern for patient care. “I would definitely be concerned. I would be afraid if I were a patient who had something seriously wrong, who required a lot of time and attention. I would be nervous if one of my parents or loved ones were in the hospital. I would be at their side every minute of the day to make sure things were being done right, because I’m concerned about adequate staffing on the floor,” she said.

The lack of nurses on the floor is a key issue facing nurses working in a hospital setting.

A longtime intensive care nurse says, “We used to have one or two patients. Now I can’t remember the last time I was allowed to have (just) one patient.

“Those potentially can be dangerous situations, but I think what nurses do is everybody jumps in...
and helps each other. Even though it’s a bad situation, you make it happen and you make it work. Nurses are the patients’ biggest advocates. We are the ones who keep banging on the doors to get things changed (for patients) or to bring things to doctors’ attention,” the intensive care nurse added.

Hospitals around the country are keenly aware of the nursing shortage and its potential effect on patients. But the hospital system has checks and balances in place to ensure quality patient care, according to Linda A. Kinney, vice president for Administration at Saint Joseph Hospital in Omaha, Creighton’s teaching hospital.

“We (hospitals) have quality controls. We collect lots of data and we analyze that data on an ongoing basis. We also have case management, which looks at what’s best for the patient. Those are the things we didn’t have (years ago) that are probably making things more efficient (for us) and more effective for the patient. Now you’ve got caring for the patient,” said Kinney.

The reason the number of nurses has fallen around the country and the globe in the late 1990’s is three-fold. The average age of full-time registered nurses in the United States is 44.8 years. With the health care field rapidly expanding to include insurance, clinics, home care and administration, many hospital nurses have simply opted to move away from hospital settings to other health care environments or simply change careers altogether because of burnout.

The shortage of full-time registered nurses also can be attributed to declining enrollment numbers in entry-level bachelor’s degree nursing programs around the country.

According to a 1998 study by the American Association of
Colleges of Nursing, the enrollment of students into entry-level baccalaureate programs in the nation’s nursing schools dropped 5.5 percent in the fall of 1998, the fourth decline in as many years.

The total master’s degree nursing enrollments also fell by 2.1 percent, while full-time master’s enrollments in nursing increased by 3.2 percent.

The 1998 graduation rates for nurses reflect the same pattern with entry-level bachelor’s degrees down by 4.7 percent, while master’s degrees in nursing rose 4.3 percent compared to the previous year.

The raw numbers point to a nationwide shortage. But unlike the cyclical shortages in the last two decades, the late 1990’s shortage appears to be hitting harder regionally and in very specific fields such as emergency medicine, labor and delivery, intensive care and coronary care. It’s the specialty shortage that the hospitals along with colleges and universities seem to be targeting in order to reverse the overall trend.

The president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), Andrea R. Lindell, DNSc, R.N., and dean of the College of Nursing and Health at the University of Cincinnati, says getting the word out about the shortage is critical.

“There is a direct link between the number of full-time equivalent registered nurses and the incidence of infection... the fewer the number of full-time R.N.’s, the greater the incidence of urinary tract infection, pneumonia, thrombosis and pulmonary congestion following major surgery.”

Health Care Policy and Research

There is a direct link between the number of full-time equivalent registered nurses and the incidence of infection... the fewer the number of full-time R.N.’s, the greater the incidence of urinary tract infection, pneumonia, thrombosis and pulmonary congestion following major surgery.

The acuity level of the patient population in hospitals today is very, very high. It’s almost ridiculous to talk about critical versus noncritical care. Hospitals want people who are educated well and who have the knowledge and skills to provide the level of care that’s required in hospitals today,” Kitchens said.

“We have to look at the practice realities that graduates are going to face, and we have to provide students who are enrolled in nursing programs with the kind of learning experiences which prepare them to hit the ground...
The shortage has put many hospitals in a recruiting battle. Even though there are 2.2 million registered nurses in the U.S., which is an all-time high, the demand for full-time equivalent nurses in New England, the South Atlantic and the Pacific regions of the U.S. is higher than the supply, according to the NACNEP study. So health care providers are turning to bonuses and incentive pay to recruit skilled nurses to their staffs.

The Orange County Register and The Los Angeles Times report signing bonuses of up to $3,000 for qualified nurses in Southern California. Many hospitals also offer finder’s fees for current employees of up to $1,000 for recruiting a nurse. Hospitals also are implementing tuition assistance programs for current employees and college students who in turn agree to work for the hospital upon graduation.

“Absolutely, some organizations are offering bonuses. You can also offer scheduling that is attractive to the nurses. They like 12-hour shifts. For those who don’t, you offer eight-hour shifts. We also started a weekend program with premium pay for working all weekend. You try to appeal to what the different groups of people like,” said Kinney of Saint Joseph Hospital.

But hospitals can use expanded scheduling only as a temporary solution to the nursing shortage.

“You can only do that for so long. If there is not an exit window, what you finally get is professional burnout,” said Kitchens of Creighton’s School of Nursing.

“I think they (hospitals) need to take care of the nurses who are there,” said the veteran ICU nurse. “I love my job. I’m a huge advocate for the profession. We can be its best recruiters,” she added.

The entire issue of recruitment comes down to public relations and partnerships. Hospitals and universities know it takes spreading the word that the shortage is real. They know it takes educating prospective students and nurses that the profession is expanding its opportunities and challenges. They also know it takes partnering to ensure that the numbers in the profession will increase.

“I would definitely be concerned...if I were a patient who had something seriously wrong, who required a lot of time and attention. I would be nervous if one of my parents or loved ones were in the hospital...I’m concerned about adequate staffing on the floor.”

Veteran Nurse of 20 years

Colleges are trying to bridge the gap with a variety of academic programs, which are marketed toward working nurses, as well as professionals outside the field and high school students who are choosing a career (see sidebar).

The hospitals in turn are making the profession more attractive with bonuses, increased pay and flexible hours. They are building new bridges with area universities and colleges to ensure that curricula and educational needs of the students match the challenges and opportunities of the profession.

That’s the key for the future of
Colleges and universities, including Creighton, are addressing the nursing shortage with tailored curricula to meet the needs of nursing professionals and other professionals who wish to move into the nursing field.

Curricula have been developed nationally for registered nurses with associate degrees or diplomas to go back to school to earn a bachelor’s degree. Creighton University’s Linking Education and Practice (LEAP) program is just one example of how colleges are retraining the nursing workforce to meet the demands of the profession.

“Hospitals can encourage those nurses to go on to school to get a broader education, by providing financial assistance for them, by making their schedules flexible enough that they can go to class, by rewarding them when they come back. So there are a lot of ways there can be a partnership between the health care agencies and university nursing programs,” said Dr. Edie Kitchens, dean of Creighton’s School of Nursing.

Creighton is one of 45 or 50 schools nationwide that has developed an accelerated learning curriculum for professionals who are not currently in the nursing profession but who want to switch careers and move into nursing.

“We have to develop programs to take those people where they are, recognize they are adult learners who have proven themselves academically because they have earned another degree in another field and that we can reconceptualize education in a way that we can mainstream those people. We can move them through a nursing program at an accelerated rate. It works beautifully! Interestingly, employers seek those graduates even more than traditional graduates,” Kitchens said.

Graduating students is one part of the equation. But before you can talk about graduation, you have to get students interested in nursing. It comes down to marketing.

“If you’re looking for new people, people to increase our numbers, you have to look at the high school levels,” said Andrea Lindell, president of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing. “So, you start looking at the ninth-graders. You talk about roles, the future of the role and the opportunities. You have to work with high school advisors and counselors for them to be knowledgeable about what nurses’ roles are and the changing and diversity of those roles.”

Higher Education Part of Solution

It will take both “vision and willingness” to reverse the trend. Recruiting with programs and people who are at the core of the profession seems to be nursing’s strategy. It’s a strategy to make sure a helping hand is there when a patient needs it most.
There’s no doubt about it: Personal bankruptcies have been on the rise in the United States. Last year, in fact, more Americans went bankrupt than graduated from college.

The solution, however, is a bit more tricky.

Federal legislation is in the works to use “means-testing” to shift some debtors from Chapter 7, which allows individuals to wipe away most of their debt, to Chapter 13, which would require debtors to repay some of their debts through future income.

The legislation comes after several creditor-funded studies, conducted over the past two years, showed that lenders were losing as much as $4 billion annually to consumer bankruptcy abuse. MasterCard lobbyist William Binzel, citing credit card industry analysis, said that “10 to 15 percent of Chapter 7 filings” could be shifted to Chapter 13 under the means-testing approach.

The General Accounting Office questioned these numbers. And, last April, the Alexandria, Va.,-based American Bankruptcy Institute — the largest multi-disciplinary, non-partisan organization dedicated to research and education on matters related to insolvency — awarded a grant to Creighton University School of Law professors Marianne Culhane and Michaela White to investigate the issue.

What did they find?

“The bottom line is that there are not as many people captured by the means test as the creditors believed,” Culhane said.

White and Culhane found that 97 percent of the debtors they surveyed filing for Chapter 7 bankruptcy have too little income to pay back even 20 percent of their unsecured debts.

That means only 3 percent of the Chapter 7 filers examined would be shifted to Chapter 13 bankruptcy under the most recent legislation passed by the House. Culhane said that
even under the most optimistic interpretation, credit card companies and other unsecured creditors might collect an additional $900 million — substantially less than the $4 billion projected.

House, Senate offer different bills

In 1998, bankruptcy reform legislation passed in both the House and Senate. The two versions of the legislation have not been reconciled.

The Senate bill would give bankruptcy judges the authority to determine whether people who earn more than the national median income for their household size — about $50,000 annually for a family of four — but are seeking to file bankruptcy could afford to repay 30 percent of their unsecured debt within five years. The judge would then direct them to file under Chapter 13 rather than Chapter 7. Currently, Chapter 7 can be chosen with few restrictions and accounts for more than 70 percent of all filings.

The House bill bars people from Chapter 7 if they have income in excess of the national median and sufficient resources to repay 20 percent of their unsecured debts in five years. The House bill makes Chapter 13 the only choice unless there is an extenuating circumstance, such as large medical bills.

The Clinton administration has announced its support of bankruptcy reform but its opposition to the House bill, writing that “access to Chapter 7 should not be governed by a rigid and arbitrary means-test.”

Why the rise in personal bankruptcies?

In the past year, approximately one in every 70 U.S. households filed for bankruptcy, and filings in the last six months exceeded all those recorded during the entire decade of the Great Depression. So why are bankruptcies so common when all numbers point toward the strongest U.S. economy in a generation?

Creditors — particularly credit card

Profiles of Chapter 7 Filers

Creighton law professors Marianne Culhane and Michaela White surveyed more than 1,000, U.S. Chapter 7 bankruptcy cases filed in 1995. Three cases from the sample are presented below.

Case 1: In classifying cases by the debtors’ annual gross income, this case was the median.

Hard times befell this California family of five in May 1995. The husband had lost his job at a pest control firm. The wife had injured herself on the job and also was out of work. The couple, who were married, and their three children were renting an apartment near San Francisco for $1,100 a month, plus $240 for utilities. From May to October, the husband earned $500 as a telephone solicitor for a long-distance phone company, and his wife earned $300 selling crystal from their home. The couple filed for Chapter 7 in October. Their gross monthly income at the time was $1,793 ($1,493 in workers’ compensation and $300 in child support from the wife’s former spouse). The family’s annual gross income for 1995 was $21,516 (the median point in Culhane and White’s sample). The couple had no secured debt (e.g., mortgage), but they owed the IRS $879 in priority taxes and had $24,800 in general unsecured debt, almost all credit card and retail charges. (Culhane and White said this case would not be shifted to Chapter 13 under the “means-testing” legislation.)

Case 2: While Culhane and White’s sample included families, the largest category (33.4 percent) of those filing for Chapter 7 was singles. The following case was the median for “unsecured debt for households of one.”

For this single female with no dependents, medical bills and a student loan accounted for most of her $12,438 in unsecured debt. She did not own an automobile and rented an apartment for $315 a month. The woman was a party to four lawsuits, either pending or which had gone to judgment, at the time she filed for bankruptcy, and the student loan creditor had been garnishing her wages since January 1993. In addition to her unsecured debt, the woman owed $944 in priority taxes. (Culhane and White said this case also would not be shifted to Chapter 13 under “means-testing.”)

Case 3: Only 3 percent of the Chapter 7 filings sampled would have been shifted to Chapter 13 under “means-testing” legislation. Below is one extreme case.

When this family of four with a home in California, a time-share in Hawaii, a 1990 Ford Thunderbird and a 1990 Acura Legend filed for bankruptcy in 1995, they owed $208,486 in secured debt, $1,200 in priority taxes and $72,741 in unsecured debt (all credit card and retail charge card debt). The husband, a salesman, had a gross monthly income of $7,535; the wife was not employed. They had two sons, ages 13 and 2. The husband listed business expenses of $730 per month for entertainment, cell phone and pager. There were several judgment liens on their home.
In the past year, approximately one in every 70 U.S. households filed for bankruptcy.

“It seems like people now are using it as a financial planning tool,” said Bruce R. Lauritzen, chairman and chief executive officer of First National Bank of Omaha.

Lauritzen said that bankruptcy is supposed to be a last resort for people who get into serious financial trouble and can’t recover. He told First National Bank’s shareholders that “we’ve been lobbying hard” in favor of the proposed bankruptcy code changes, including means-testing.

Executives at First National Bank of Omaha — which has issued about 4 million credit cards — say they tightened credit card standards for customers about three years ago and have not offered a credit card in 25 years to a person with a bankruptcy on his record.

Meanwhile consumer advocates place the blame for this rise in personal bankruptcy filings on the credit industry’s aggressive marketing of credit cards to the most vulnerable in society.

Stephen Brobeck, executive director of The Consumer Federation of America, calls dependence on high-interest credit “the mother of all consumer problems.”

In 1998, more than 3 billion credit card offers were mailed out in the United States, an average of more than 30 per household. The Credit Research Center in Washington, D.C., estimated that 28 percent of households with $10,000 or less in annual income held bank credit cards in 1995. A recent USA Today poll said that 89 percent of bankruptcy filers who were surveyed reported receiving pre-approved credit card offers after they filed for bankruptcy.

If credit card issuers would “extend credit more prudently and responsibly, you would see a dramatic fall in bankruptcies,” Brobeck said.

According to VISA USA and MasterCard International, slightly more than 3.5 percent of credit card balances are delinquent and 1 percent of credit card accounts are dismissed in bankruptcy.

“Most businesses would be jumping up and down for glee if they had a 3 percent default rate on receivables,” New York Law School professor Karen Gross said. “If you can make the bankruptcy system your collection agent, you essentially defray the cost of collection on to others, which increases your profit.”

Who is going bankrupt?

White and Culhane’s research indicates that consumer bankruptcy often is used by families in serious financial trouble. In the cases they surveyed, Culhane and White found that individuals filing for Chapter 7 had an average annual gross income of $24,000 and an average debt of about $75,000.

Culhane and White said the goal of bankruptcy reform must be to strike a balance so that those entering bankruptcy court are deserving of the procedure and those who extend credit are prudent in how they deal with consumers.

Bankruptcy court is like an economic hospital, they said. The goal of any bankruptcy reform legislation should be to help bring people back into the system, contributing to the economy and society.
What’s fueling the recent rise in bankruptcies?

According to Creighton economist Dr. Ernest P. Goss, credit cards are one major culprit.

Goss conducted a statistical analysis of personal bankruptcies filed over the past 17 years and found a correlation between the nation’s rising consumer credit card debt and bankruptcies.

Using Federal Reserve figures, Goss’ research shows that credit card debt increased from 1.9 percent of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) in 1980 to 6.4 percent in 1997. In 1998, credit card debt in the U.S. averaged a record $539.4 billion, surpassing the $516.2 billion average of 1997.

“By and large, credit card debt tended to be the most powerful variable in explaining bankruptcy rates,” said Goss, who holds the Jack A. MacAllister Endowed Chair in Regional Economics at Creighton. Other significant factors included divorce, unemployment and other debt.

Culture shift

For Creighton philosopher Dr. Patrick Murray, this reliance on credit cards and credit represents a “huge” cultural shift from the past.

“My grandfather, on my mother’s side, would never buy anything on time,” Murray said. Murray also recalled his childhood pastor. “He would not build a new church until he had all the money in the bank to build it. Who does that anymore?”

Murray, chair of Creighton’s Philosophy Department and author of the 1997 book Reflections on Commercial Life, said philosophers like Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas railed against the practice of charging interest, a practice known then as usury.

“The usurers are at the very bottom of the seventh circle of Dante’s Inferno. The seventh circle also includes the violent against others, the violent against themselves and sodomites,” Murray said. “The whole idea of loaning money — of credit — was just hated and condemned. Now it’s just business as usual. It’s just one of those historical transformations.”

So what happened?

Murray said private industry began to shift away from the Protestant ethic of “work hard and save” in the 1920s, after World War I.

“Work hard and save was all about increasing (business) productivity and the volume of production,” Murray said. “But as that got more and more successful, we faced a very basic problem — overproduction.”

With overproduction, businesses could create more products than consumers had the means to buy.

“Overproduction became a big problem,” Murray said. “And consumer credit was a key to the solution.”

Overproduction created what American sociologist Daniel Bell called a “new capitalism.” Businesses now not only had to work hard to create products, but they had to “stimulate a demand for pleasure and play in the area of consumption.”

Murray said that to the Protestant ethic of work hard and save was added a third dimension, which he calls “party hard” or the phenomenon of “shop-til-you-drop.”

“What’s driving all of that?”

Murray said. “Why do we have to work hard? Why do we have to save? Why do we have to party hard? Because that’s how capital turns over and continues its relentless path of making money.”

A civic duty

Murray said that French sociologist Jean Baudrillard has gone so far as to say that personal consumption of goods and services has become a civic duty for many.

Baudrillard quotes a 1958 statement from then President Dwight D. Eisenhower in which he congratulates free-spending American consumers for their “efforts.”

“Around Christmastime now, one of the main things we hear on the news is: ‘How are the retail sales? Are we getting the job done?’” Murray said.

“This is where the credit comes in so heavily,” Murray added. “This is one of the ways in which the wheels of buying are oiled.”

Murray said that the stigma associated with bankruptcy and poor credit also has diminished.

“We used to put debtors in prison,” Murray said. “Why don’t we do that anymore? Because it’s better for business to make bankruptcy an option.”
Creighton Physicists Join the Hunt for Quark-Gluon Plasma

By Brian Kokensparger

When the most powerful collider yet constructed — a collider “hot” enough to produce conditions similar to those that existed one ten-millionth of a second after the Big Bang — is “turned on” for the first time this June at Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island, Creighton faculty and students will have front-row seats to one of the greatest events in physics in this century.

Since 1992, Creighton’s physics faculty have been working with scientists from around the world to begin the search for signatures of quark-gluon plasma — a state of matter never before observed by human beings. Their work is part of the $40 million STAR (Solenoidal Tracker at RHIC) project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy. The Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) being constructed at Brookhaven — with its 1,740 superconducting magnets and 2.5 miles of underground tunnels — will be used to test for the existence of this yet unobserved matter.

Creighton is a significant force in the project, in terms of personnel and expertise. Creighton professors Dr. Michael Cherney, Fr. Thomas McShane, S.J., and Dr. Janet Seger are responsible for much of the collection and analysis of project data. The result of this first “turn-on” — which could be construed as a re-enactment of the beginning of the universe — will be to produce test data and to ensure that all elements of the system operate as designed.

Physicists theorize that quark-gluon plasma existed soon after the Big Bang and that it is a state through which all matter of the universe passed in the subsequent cooling period. Subsequently, we can view the collider as a sort of time machine, taking us back as observers to the origins of our universe.

Why are physicists interested in retracing our universe’s life back to its infancy? Cosmologists, who have a passion for probing the origins of our universe, have made assertions about how it was formed and the chain of events that has brought it to its present state. Like establishing a base camp at the foot of Mount Everest, positive signatures of a quark-gluon plasma state under near-Big Bang conditions could verify cosmological speculations.
and give cosmologists a new starting point from which to climb higher into the mysteries surrounding the origin of our universe. Studying this early state of matter also could allow physicists to make progress toward establishing Grand Unified Theories — attempts to determine if all four of our currently recognized forces (strong, weak, electromagnetic and gravitational) were derived from an initial, single force (a question with many scientific ramifications, and perhaps a few theological ones).

What is a quark-gluon plasma?

"Think about heating liquid water ..." Dr. Seger said. Talking with a physicist is always an adventure in correct terminology. It does not begin with water, it begins with "liquid water ..." And so it goes.

When energy is added, in this case heat, it breaks the bonds that hold the liquid together and individual gas molecules are released. Most of us are aware of molecules, comparatively large, clumsy units of matter that vibrate at differing speeds depending upon their state. In the gaseous state, they are moving quite rapidly compared to their movements in the liquid state, and far more rapidly still compared to their movements in the solid state.

Add more energy, and you break those molecules down to their individual atoms, hydrogen and oxygen.

Add a tremendous amount of additional energy to an individual atom, the hydrogen atom, for example, and this breaks the bond between the electron and nucleus, forming a plasma state. Plasma simply describes a state at which individual particles (quarks and gluons) are relatively free to move independently of one another, versus being bound together.

Add more energy to the nucleus of this atom, and it can break apart into protons and neutrons, called a hadron gas (pronounced “had-ron”). We have entered the infinitesimally small world beyond
The STAR Detector at RHIC

Researchers at Brookhaven National Laboratory, using a system of underground tunnels, will accelerate atoms derived from small amounts of gold to near the speed of light. These atoms will collide head-on at the STAR detector, where scientists will test for the existence of a novel state of matter, the quark-gluon plasma.

1. Small amounts of gold are heated to a gas state. These gold atoms are then stripped of their electrons, giving them a charge to start their journey.

2. Billions of gold atoms are pulled through a linear accelerator, with the help of electric fields, and gain speed. The accelerator is called “linear” because it operates in a straight line.

3. The atoms enter the circular track of the Alternating Gradient Synchrotron (AGS). Electric fields boost the speed of the atoms about 10-fold. Large magnets keep the atoms in a tight beam.

4. The beam enters the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC). Magnets at the collider's entry point split the beam in two. Half of the atoms are sent one way on the 2.5-mile, circular track; half the other. Electric fields propel the atoms close to light-speed. More than 1,700 superconducting magnets keep the beams on course.

5. The beams cross at six different points along the collider. At each point, scientists are conducting different experiments.

6. At one cross-over point is the STAR detector. At its core is where the collisions will occur — about one every second. A data collection grid, lined with sophisticated sensors, will track the scattering particles — giving scientists a three-dimensional picture of the collisions and their aftermath.
aided vision, a world where particles are “seen” only indirectly, through their effects on other known particles and phenomena.

Add an incredible amount of additional energy to this hadron gas, and we approach a transition to a theoretical state called quark-gluon plasma, where the quarks and gluons that compose the hadrons begin to move more independently of one another.

**Quarks first discovered in 1968**

Quarks were a bit of an enigma when they were first discovered, reputedly in 1968 by physicists at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center. Quarks have been observed in groups of three (called “baryons”) and singly, paired with an antiquark (in the case of “mesons”). The first quarks discovered were characterized by their respective charges (“up” quarks are positive, “down” quarks are negative), but since then “strange,” “charm,” and “beauty” quarks have been discovered, all of which differ from one another primarily by mass. Quarks even have “colors” (blue, green and red) which have no resemblance to the colors we see in real life but are important analogies to help us visualize the color mixing effects of quark-antiquark and quark-gluon interactions.

One of the more interesting properties of quarks is the force that bonds them together. Unlike electrical force that gets stronger at closer proximity between two bodies (and therefore higher energies), the forces between quarks get very weak at close approach and very strong as they move apart. Physicists call this paradox — which is the backbone of the theory of quantum chromodynamics — the “strong” force. It arises when “messenger” particles called gluons interact with quarks. When these interactions occur, the gluons, which also carry colors of their own, effectively change the quark’s color.

While the existence of quark-gluon plasma is only a theory, promotional documentation on the project’s official Web page ([http://www.rhic.bnl.gov/STAR/star.html](http://www.rhic.bnl.gov/STAR/star.html)) states that it is hoped that the RHIC will: “recreate in the laboratory a novel state of matter, the quark-gluon plasma, which is predicted by the standard model of particle physics (quantum chromodynamics) to have existed one ten-millionth of a second after the Big Bang (origin of the universe) and may exist in the cores of very dense stars.”

As a secondary objective, the collider will aid in the study of peripheral collisions, or “near misses” — when the atoms pass so closely that they alter one another’s movement.
Work continues on the collider

Before the theory can be tested, however, the collider must be completed and must work as designed. Its most noticeable feature is a huge ring, nearly three miles in diameter, covered with earth, like a huge circular burial mound. Inside the mound, gold nuclei (atoms derived from small amounts of gold — as in gold nuggets — with the electrons stripped off them) will pass through a tunnel; a series of finely tuned magnets keep the beam of gold nuclei in place and promote greater acceleration. If all goes as planned, the collider at Brookhaven will smash gold nuclei together with enough energy to produce temperatures near Big Bang proportions.

The solenoidal tracker is a separate piece of equipment, a collection of sensors that the STAR staff has designed. The ring and magnets of the collider will add energy to the gold nuclei and cause the collisions to happen; the tracker will observe the results of these collisions among a host of variables.

“Testing will take place all summer,” Seger said. “Then in August, the ring will be shut down for a couple months to make any required modifications. The testing phase will probably reveal problems that we hope can be corrected in a couple months.” And then, barring any defects in materials or workmanship, a second “turn-on” will happen in November.

Balancing Science and Religion

All the talk about the Big Bang and the formation of the universe begs the question: “How do you deal with the conflict between what most Christians believe to be the formation of the universe — that God created it — and what most scientists believe — that it was created through an interaction of energy and matter?”

“I don’t see any conflict there,” said Dr. Janet Seger.

“We’re talking about what may or may not be an active creation. We don’t know if the Big Bang was the beginning; this research has no way of addressing how it started. We want to ask not who was responsible for the act, but how it happened. I believe it leads us closer to God. Our world is set up according to certain physical laws, and that’s the way it is. If you believe in God, you have to believe that this physical order is part of the package. It’s one way that we learn about God.”

Creighton philosopher Dr. Eugene Selk said that when the Big Bang theory emerged in the 1930s and then later became well-confirmed in the 1960s, there was a tendency for some religious leaders to appeal to the Big Bang as a confirmation of the Jewish and Christian belief in God the Creator. Today, he said, most philosophers and theologians are much more cautious about using the Big Bang theory to support the existence of God and the notion of God the Creator. “There is always the danger of falling into a God-of-the-gaps argument — appealing to God to explain some phenomena which at present cannot be explained by science,” Selk said.

“Although it is inappropriate to appeal to the Big Bang as confirmation of God the Creator, it is appropriate to appeal to it as a wonderful consonance with the notion of God the Creator,” Selk said. “If we seek a coherent world-view and assume that truth is one, we would expect science and theology to be in harmony. If the universe began in time through the act of a Creator, we would expect this creative act to look something like the Big Bang. But this consonance is a tentative relation and will certainly shift in the future.”

Priest-physicist Fr. Thomas McShane, S.J., agrees.

“God is creator of everything, and this Big Bang idea is the current thinking. Some years ago, the Big Bang had to contend with the idea of continuous creation. Philosophically, there is no problem with continuous creation, this whole idea that God is still actively creating the universe. Theology, philosophy, science, literature — all of these things are different levels of seeing God’s creation,” McShane said. “In my mind there is no conflict at all between science — even nuclear physics — and being a good Christian. The connotation, especially with the atom bomb, is that nuclear physics is tainted. Everything gives us more knowledge about God’s creation — it’s a matter of how that knowledge is used.”
I want to see what will happen; no one has made this before,” Seger continued. “There is speculation that neutron stars may have quark-gluon plasma in them. Perhaps the neutron stars spin differently and we can tell by the spin.”

Creighton’s connection

Seger will spend most of her sabbatical, which begins this summer, at Brookhaven. Seger is a member of the STAR Council, the executive body of the operations sector, which is responsible for analyzing the data and determining what it means to physics.

Creighton graduate and undergraduate students also have spent time at Brookhaven and have worked in the computer labs at Creighton on control and data analysis software for STAR. “The students take shifts with the equipment, help with the construction, lay cables, connect electronics and work on computer projects,” Seger said.

Though a relatively small group, The Relativistic Heavy Ion Physics Group at Creighton is solely responsible for coordinating the monitoring and control of the experiment and has some responsibility for the data analysis.

“Once the STAR staff at Brookhaven gives us a beam, we have total control over the tracker and how the data are collected and stored,” McShane said.

Five other institutions are offering collaborative support to help the small group with the gigantic responsibility of collecting, storing, and monitoring the data provided by 30,000 sensors. Dozens more institutions will collaborate on the endless job of data analysis.

Most of those who have been involved with the project will be present at the beginning of the test run in June. Those attending will receive little or no indication about whether the collider’s attempt to re-create quark-gluon plasma is successful. It probably will be months before the thousands of millions of bytes of data produced can be properly analyzed and produce useable results. However, the mere “turn-on” of the most powerful collider yet constructed is bound to be remembered as among the greatest events in physics in this century, and Creighton will have a key role.

The existence of quark-gluon plasma is predicted by the standard model of particle physics, but this state of matter has yet to be observed in an experiment. How, then, will scientists know if they’ve actually found quark-gluon plasma? Creighton’s Dr. Seger said researchers will compare the data collected at Brookhaven against data collected from similar experiments at a lower-energy collider in Switzerland. They also will compare the data against several current theories of what quark-gluon plasma “looks” like.
The room under the eaves is full of light, almost on fire with the late afternoon winter sun.

We are at evening prayer. Nev’s high, clear voice joins Joseph’s baritone in a 13th-century chant. Over the altar, an icon of St. Francis warms in the candlelight as the day fades.

I have to remind myself that this is a 20th century farmhouse, tucked in the rolling hills near the upper Missouri River, just east of a tiny village that belongs to the Santee people, remnants of the once masterful Sioux.

Without that reminder, we might as well be in the hills around Assisi, St. Francis about to enter the room, his cowl thrown back, his voice joining ours in the strains of the chant.

But this is Nebraska. Joseph is Dr. Joe Kelly, a Creighton graduate dentist (DDS’93) employed by the Santee tribe. If it weren’t for the carved wooden Greek “tau” (the cross of St. Francis...
Francis), combined with a heart symbol for Christ, dangling from their necks, you’d never guess on first meeting that this husband and wife are members of a holy order, the Brothers & Sisters of Charity.

When Fr. Don Doll, S.J., and I drove up to the little town of Santee in the early winter, we had no idea what to expect. In spite of the warm fall, the land was brown. Most of the towns looked desolate. Santee seemed to share this desolation, except for one bright spot: the shiny, new Santee Sioux Health Center. It was here our story would begin.

We knew we were to meet Joseph — and we’d heard he’d accepted an assignment to work for the native people, which was an unusual arrangement for a health care professional. The more common route was to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in service to Native Americans. But, then, Joseph had said of his mission to staff the dental wing of the clinic, “I can’t control the world outside. But this is a sanctuary for people to be treated with respect. We’re to be here for service, as Christ would want us to be. I need to treat people within their culture, not mine.”

How did this play out in a busy clinic serving the many needs of an unfamiliar community of 1,200? The first patient of the day, an emergency, was late in arriving by at least two hours. Was Joseph fretting? No. “You have to remember,” he says, “that finding a baby sitter, getting gas money for the 100-plus-mile drive (the patient was from Sioux Falls) take time.”

The patient soon arrives and is treated.

Between patients, Joseph reflects. “Creighton prepares you very much for being able to begin a general practice.” He adds, “all the cases (in the Creighton Clinic) — the easy ones and the more challenging — were shared with the students.”

This Friday is a light day for Joseph: He will have about six patients, two of whom have emergencies. Although he still treats plenty of patients whose pain finally brings them to the dentist, Joseph is pleased that preventive care visits are on the rise. His attempts to encourage regular visits before problems mount for his patients may be working.

He explains to the second patient that her gums are healing well since surgery. Her tissues are regrowing and realigning, and he adjusts her new dentures. “Do they feel OK?” he asks. “Be picky.”

As she leaves, she confides to me, “I don’t like dentists, but he’s good and gentle.”

The clinic’s lobby walls are lined with posters — on drugs, alcohol, inhalants, blood pressure and cholesterol. A star quilt anchors one wall. I learn later that not everyone gets a star quilt up here. According to Don, it’s a gift of honor: Joseph and Nev are gradually being accepted by the people.

Several appointments later, Joseph has wrapped up the day’s work. He wants to take us to an old farmsite that will one day become a prayer house for people seeking spiritual reflection. He and Nev live several miles beyond it, but, because the farmsite is on the way, we will stop there first.

We wait outside in the sun. Soon Joseph chugs up, smiling, in a relic of a car. I think of all the “upwardly mobile” professionals I know, and I begin to see that Joseph is not caught up in the trappings of the dominant culture. It takes energy to swim against the tide. How does he do it? With humor, at least. We all smile at...
the chugging ’60s Ford. But I’m soon made to respect it. Suddenly, Joseph and Don are several farm roads ahead of me. The old V-8 is outpacing my ’90s car!

Soon, we’re walking the rolling hills that shelter a 1905 farmhouse built by a family of Germans. As we approach the structure, Joseph advises us to stay clear of the porch, teetering above us on wooden supports.

My heart sinks as I look at the crumbling plaster, the rain-worn floors, the roof long open to barn swallows. But Joseph sees the possibilities. He’s already restored the power lines. Water will be next, then the roof. He touches the timbers: “dimensional fir from the Northwest.”

One of nine children, growing up in near-poverty, Joseph long ago learned to see the potential in a heap of rubble. Son of a sharecropper-turned-postal-worker, Joseph at age 8 rode with his parents and siblings from Iowa to Oregon in an old Studebaker to begin a new life. “We were a little like Steinbeck’s Joads,” he says. In Oregon, the family joined the migrant workers in the field and pooled the family’s income to buy a first house. Between school and work, there was little time for much else, but Joseph remembers playing football.

The Kellys patched and rebuilt a succession of homes to save expenses, and Joseph says he was helped through college on the pooled funds of his family.

We climb a nearby hill; our eyes sweep the horizon. We imagine the cabins that Joseph and Nev envision surrounding the farmhouse, “for folks to be alone, to seek God undistracted.” Some 160 acres of the land already are secure for the prayer house. But they dream of securing about 500 more acres as a peaceful, natural area.

Stewardship of the land is part of the Franciscan vision, Joseph says. “You create a harmony,” he says, “eeking out your livelihood ... and keeping in balance with the land.” Simplicity of living is the rule.

... “the thought came to me, ‘Joe, what do you really want to do?’ And my answer was immediate: ‘I want to serve the poor.’”
The wind is turning bitter. Back in my car, I struggle to keep up with the Ford as it makes for Nev and Joseph’s own home — and what functions now as their house of prayer.

A sharp left turn takes us down an inclined driveway, and a border collie-cross, tail wagging, bounds up to gather us in for the final approach.

A slim, energetic woman comes to meet us. It’s Nev, taking us into the home they’re restoring around them. We climb to a wide, welcoming entry which, our hosts explain, will include a meeting room. Joseph is exacting and is already changing the wall area above the meeting room door to hold a religious icon. The new floor tilts slightly. “We’ve adjusted it a little bit,” Joseph explains, “so the original house, which is tilted, too, doesn’t make the entry look off.” It must be the wisdom that comes from working with old houses. “I like taking old things and making them work again,” Joseph says.

The kitchen door opens and a wonderful warmth, light and smell surround us. Christ with the lambs appears on a wallhanging, placed right over the joists. Joseph and Nev are building the house as they’re living here, sleeping and doing office work in the tiny trailer but taking their meals, praying together and recording their music here. And reading. They’ve completed a wonderful little library, lined with bookshelves and washed in clear, north light. A woodburning stove warms the room.

Part of their house will soon function as a temporary house of prayer, which will include the meeting room and welcoming area. A couple of additional trailers dot the nearby hillside and already can comfortably house people coming for prayer, study and solitude. Eventually, as the Kellys complete renovation of the farmhouse we visited earlier, the house of prayer will open there.

There’s a “filmy” sort of feeling to much of the house in this state of its development. It’s almost as if, like its owners, the house is shrugging off the material state and slipping into a more spiritual existence, one room merging into another, joists open, hardware exposed, Christ with the lambs visible from the kitchen wall and the adjoining dining room wall.

Soon Nev has put mugs of tea in our hands. Her face is open and kind, Joseph’s more serious, listening. Now that we are in Joseph and Neville’s home, we begin to see their story unfold.

The sun soon slips away. Out come the utensils and more tea. I help Nev lay the table. Somehow, even that worn, everyday act feels like a special ritual. Joseph and Nev pray a brief blessing over the meal, including us in their prayers. The dinner is simple and good.

The dishes are cleared. The stories come out, slowly, unrushed. It’s the Franciscan way, I learn. “Your life is so peaceful and quiet that you can...”
respond to God wherever God leads you,” they explain. “You’re not attached to material goods”; you are freer to respond.

We talk about the call that has come into their lives, the countercultural stance they’re taking toward the world, the complete trust they have in God, the mystery and wonder of letting God “live” them to serve the poor, to live the example set by Christ. “When you give up control because of your faith, you begin to see God working through you,” they say. “We release His dreams by relinquishing our own,” Neville adds.

How did that call come to them? How did they decide to take mutual vows of silence, solitude, prayer, penance, poverty, spiritual chastity and obedience?

And at what price do they relinquish what the world calls success? The certain world of possessions, approval, material comforts and predictability?

For Joseph, that call began at Creighton’s dental school. Grandson and nephew to four Creighton dentists, Joseph says, “I didn’t know until March of my senior year what I wanted to do with my degree. Then, when I was making popcorn one evening, the thought came to me, ‘Joe, what do you really want to do?’ And my answer was immediate: ‘I want to serve the poor.’”

A staff member at the dental school told Joseph about two openings for dentists on Indian reservations in Nebraska, one at Winnebago and the other at Santee. The choice was not difficult, Joseph says; “when we came over this hill (into Santee) and saw this peaceful community,” he and Nev knew their place was here.

For Nev, the call came through her love of music. (Founder of the couple’s order, John Michael Talbot, composes contemporary Christian music, and his work has made a strong impression on Nev.) Today, that love has grown to include her ministry at the nearby parish church, work in her recording studio and “on the road” concert tours in the Midwest.

As members of a religious community, Joseph and Nev have made a nine-year journey from postulancy, through novitiate, profession and, finally, permanent profession.

Their is a radical lifestyle that refutes the cultural norms of consumerism and self-interest. In a sense, it’s a longing for spirituality in a material world. What seems to free them to live this way is a complete trust in God’s provision for their needs — and for the needs of the people they serve.

Joseph’s and Nev’s call to serve is expressed through Joseph’s service as a dentist to the Santee people; through Nev’s ministry as a musician; through
their commitment together to build the Sacred Faith House of Prayer, and through the way they choose to live in service to Christ and in harmony with their surroundings.

The Kellys describe the Sacred Faith House of Prayer as a “domestic foundation of the Brothers & Sisters of Charity ... located in the ‘vast solitude’ of America’s heartland.” Within the Archdiocese of Omaha in northeastern Nebraska, the house opened in March 1996. It is one of three in the United States; the others are in upstate New York and Texas. Eventually, the house will be situated not in Joseph and Nev’s current living quarters as it is now but the abandoned farmhouse we viewed in the hills.

“Our primary and most important task as a House of Prayer is the prayerful worship of God,” write Joseph and Nev in their description of the prayer house near Crofton, Neb.

The Kellys offer modest accommodations, should someone want to join them for retreat, work or “re-creation.” There is no charge for these services.

Our visit is nearing its end. But, before we go, Joseph and Nev want us to share in their tree-planting. It’s windy again — and cold — and each of us is dressed in about every layer we have.

The little firs seem too small to challenge the wind. But they’ll become windbreaks for the farm, Joseph says. They place them in the holes with such care, loosening their roots, gently adding water, then soil.

I’ve seen this attention before: for patients, music, each rafter and fitting, food, the table, for each other, for us, now the trees.

Joseph says they’re celebrating God’s creation when they plant the trees, the creation Francis loved, and the rootedness of the Benedictines.

We need to drive back to Omaha, but Don and I feel as if we’ve journeyed to Assisi — and places beyond — with the Kellys. We are fascinated by their lives, Don as a Jesuit, I as a married person. It seems they’ve managed to combine these two vocations in a very special and important way.

The little house is disappearing from view. It’s cold, and the three of them (Caleb, their dog, is also watching) stand in front of the old farmhouse, bidding us well.

As we slip out of the hills, I remember something Nev said, “To live in a gently opposite spirit.”

I can see their little light in my rearview mirror for some time before it’s erased by the winter night.

As members of the Brothers & Sisters of Charity, Joseph and Nev Kelly join a Catholic-based community of about 400 in the United States who are living either domestic or monastic expressions of their faith. The community is rooted in the Benedictine and Franciscan traditions and describes itself as “religious from a Christian base, Christ-like from a Catholic base and monastic from a Franciscan base.”

Nev says this movement, a religious order that offers full membership to both lay people and clerics, married and single, is very new. Their community is made up of about 30 percent Protestants. Nev is from this tradition.

The motherhouse of the community is the Little Portion Hermitage near Eureka Springs, Ark. It includes celibate brothers, celibate sisters, families and singles, all living what is called the monastic expression. Members divide their time between prayer and physical labor, with farming the hermitage grounds the major work. The domestic expression includes “those who live throughout the world in their homes,” according to Nev. That would be the Kellys and others like them here and abroad. They attempt to live both the monastic philosophy and spirituality in the world, joining in the service efforts of their local Catholic or Protestant churches, as well.

Both the monastic and domestic expressions “exist under one Scripture rule,” says the order’s literature, and under the leadership of the order’s founder, general minister and monastic father. “Yet each expression has its own distinct leadership and written guidelines, our directory,” the literature continues. “As such, Jesus is our primary rule, and our primary law or constitution is love.” The order is under the jurisdiction of the bishop of Little Rock, Ark.
Students rushed the court at the Kiel Center in St. Louis, Mo., after the Creighton men’s basketball team beat the University of Evansville to win the Missouri Valley Conference title.

Senior forward Rodney Buford of Milwaukee was selected as the tournament’s MVP and, along with teammate Ben Walker, was one of two Creighton players named to the MVC All-Tournament team.

By winning the conference championship, its first since 1991, Creighton earned an automatic berth in the NCAA Tournament. The 10th-seeded Bluejays upset seventh-seeded Louisville in the first round of the NCAA South Regional in Orlando, Fla., before falling to second-seeded Maryland in the second round to finish the season 22-9.

Buford finished his Creighton career as the school’s all-time scoring leader with 2,116 career points — passing Bob Harstad, who scored 2,110 points from 1987 to 1991.

The Creighton women’s basketball team also qualified for post-season action for the first time since 1994. Creighton earned a National Invitation Tournament bid after losing to Evansville, in overtime, in the MVC tournament championship. Senior Kristen Hafer and junior Corey Sweeney were named to the All-Tournament team for Creighton. The Bluejays lost to Kansas State in the first round of the NIT to finish 16-14.