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Kentucky Southern Votes
To Discontinue Merger

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LOUISVILLE (BP)--Trustees of Kentucky Southern College here, formerly a Baptist school, have canceled plans for the present to merge with the University of Louisville following an enthusiastic student-led fund drive.

The students, who raised about \$1.3 million, were credited with saving the school during the one-month campaign.

Board Chairman LeRoy Highbaugh, who contributed \$800,000 to the drive, said however that the school still does not have "the dollars and cents that will guarantee our separate existence forever."

Highbaugh, a wealthy Louisville businessman, said he thought the \$1.3 million raised by the students was adequate to keep the school operating as a private, Christian college for "several more months."

One month earlier, the school's trustees had voted 18-3 to merge with the University of Louisville which agreed to assume the former Baptist school's \$8 million in assets and \$4½ million in debts.

Last March Kentucky Southern trustees severed ties with the Kentucky Baptist Convention to become a private, Christian education free to accept federal aid. The seven-year old school was and is in dire financial straights.

A committee of the Kentucky Baptist Convention is in the process of studying their "moral and legal" obligations to Kentucky Southern in the light of the school's plans to merge with the University of Louisville. The convention earlier had pledged \$77,010 for five years to the school.

The decision to discontinue merger talks with University of Louisville was a complete turn-about for the school's trustees. The vote was 18-1 with three abstentions.

The vote was prompted by a last-ditch stand by the students and faculty of Kentucky Southern to "Save our School" (SOS). The students wrote thousands of letters and made hundreds of telephone calls to potential donors in the Louisville area and across the nation.

Faculty members agreed to give up raises, and students agreed to tuition hikes of \$200 per trimester, from \$400 to \$600.

Following the vote of the trustees to discontinue merger talks, Kentucky Southern President Rollin S. Burhans told the students they would have to pay only \$100 of the announced \$200 tuition increase next semester, explaining that the school would use \$300,000 of the \$1.3 million the students had raised to provide tuition grants in January for the students.

Both Burhans and Highbaugh said it was the efforts by the students, and that alone, which convinced the trustees to continue the school.

Student leaders are talking about continuing the drive indefinitely until sufficient amounts are pledged to pay off the college's \$4½ million indebtedness, but the board of trustees may take over coordination of the fund drive to allow students to concentrate on their final exams.

University of Louisville President Philip Davidson revealed in a letter to the Kentucky Southern trustees that the university was willing to forego merger talks at the present time but would be open to future merger discussion if Kentucky Southern wished to reopen the matter.

Meanwhile, the college faces the problem of making satisfactory arrangements about the indebtedness of \$623,000 in short-term bank loans and \$250,000 in operating expenses.

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Board Chairman Highbaugh said that V. V. Cooke Sr., of Louisville, one of the chief benefactors of the college who initiated the University of Louisville merger, had agreed to pay one of the short-term notes totaling \$100,000. Trustees hope other notes held by the banks can be renewed.

More than 98 per cent of the creditors to whom the \$250,000 is owed have agreed to be paid on a 10 per cent per month for 10 months basis, Highbaugh said.

In addition to immediate expenses, the school owes more than \$3 million in long-range mortgage payments for building construction, although they present no immediate financial threat, according to Highbaugh.

The day following the trustees vote to discontinue merger talks, Kentucky Southern President Burhans said he planned to resign whenever the college can hire "a top-flight business manager, a top-flight dean of students, and a top-flight president."

Burhans, former pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church in Louisville, said later during the day he did not mean he was going to quit "so long as I can make a contribution in stabilizing and strengthening the college as an independent, Christian college."

He cited the need for a vice president in each of the key administrative areas of development, student, financial and academic affairs, and that people of the caliber needed are hard to find, and the school is hard-put to pay the salaries necessary.

A lengthy report in The National Observer, a weekly newspaper published in Washington, devoted its page-one lead story to the crisis at Kentucky Southern the week of the vote, praising the students for their fund drive and the school's academic achievements.

"From all indications the college achieved the goal it set out for--quality education within a Christian context," said The National Observer.

The article quoted persons praising the school's academic program with phrases such as "near magnificence", "educational utopia", and "the finest academic program I've ever seen anywhere."

"A casual visitor cannot evaluate KSC's academic program," observed The National Observer, "but neither can he miss the air of specialness about the college."

Whether Kentucky Southern will be able to stay in business as a private school devoted to "quality education in a Christian context" is still not clear. Some observers are skeptical, but if the enthusiasm of the student body, and faculty is any indication, they might make it.

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Commission Wins Awards
For "Issues and Answers"

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OKLAHOMA CITY (BP)--The Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention won two awards here, a first place and a best-of-the-show citation, for the production of ten study pamphlets entitled "Issues and Answers."

The awards were presented by the Art Director's Club of Oklahoma City, which judged 370 entries in its fourth annual exhibition.

The gold medal for art direction (best of the show) was presented the commission for its production of a series of ten study pamphlets and press kit materials. The series' titles included alcohol, communism, gambling, honesty, juvenile delinquency, the mass media, peace, pornography, poverty and race relations.

Floyd A. Craig, director of public relations for the commission, received the distinctive merit (first place) award for the editorial photography used on the cover of each of the "Issues and Answers" pamphlet series.

Ken Null of The Studio, Inc., of Oklahoma City, was the art director for the series, and was present to receive the award on behalf of the commission.

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Professor Asks Mission
Internship Before Seminary

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ATLANTA (BP)--A Southern Baptist seminary professor said here that students need to experience the "hard realities" of the mission field before they complete their theological studies.

Cal Guy, professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, urged the Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention to consider experimenting with a missions internship for college graduates prior to their seminary studies.

"Seminaries need to quit feeling that such suggestions will 'rob' them of enrollment and see what the impact could be for God's kingdom," Guy said at the board's annual session here.

He even indicated that students already enrolled in the seminaries could benefit from such a program.

"This is one seminary professor who doesn't resent students going out on the mission field before we (the seminaries) get through with them," he said.

"If a student gets all his theological training before he interns he is not getting the maximum benefit of his study. Such experience would add two things: maturity and motivation."

The Home Mission Board's US-2 ministry, under which about 25 college graduates are appointed for two years of mission service, apparently would provide the structure for such an effort, according to Nathan Porter, who recruits US-2 volunteers.

US-2 is not limited to potential seminary students, however. Its purpose is to offer two years of mission service to any qualifying college graduate 27 years of age or under.

When asked about the number of "interns" he was thinking of, Guy said he was thinking of an enlarged effort that would equal the amount of requests for such assistance from the mission field.

US-2ers are appointed and financed through the Home Mission Board's 12 programs of work, which does imply some budget limitations (\$135,000 designated for US-2 in the 1968 budget).

Speaking specifically of the seminary-bound young person, however, Guy said an enlarged program would have the added purpose of producing better motivated theological students who would be oriented to missions.

He suggested that perhaps more local resources could be mustered to support the "interns"

"If the students get a few knocks on the head before they get to the seminary, then they will come out well prepared for pioneer missions," he said.