



**BAPTIST PRESS**

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March 19, 1969

**Georgetown Board Reaffirms  
Social Dancing On Campus**

GEORGETOWN, Ky. (BP)--The board of trustees for Georgetown College here voted to continue the policy it set last October permitting social dancing on the Baptist college campus, despite a storm of protest from the Kentucky Baptist Convention.

"We assure the convention that we believe tolerance of our apparent differences is within the best Baptist tradition," said a statement adopted by the trustees in their mid-March meeting here.

The issue of dancing at Georgetown College was the major concern of the convention when it met in Florence, Ky., in mid-November, and adopted two different motions on the matter.

One of the motions expressed "vigorous opposition" to the trustees' decision to permit social dancing, requested the trustees to reconsider the vote, and asked that the trustees' decision be reported in the Western Recorder, the official Baptist state paper. The motion passed by a 20 vote margin, 184-164.

In response, the trustees adopted the recommendation of its student affairs committee which suggested that the trustees continue the October 11, 1968, action "permitting social dancing to be a part of the students' on-campus social program."

"We interpret our action as having decided no longer to disallow dancing, but to allow it as a choice available to the students; and if chose, to permit it on the campus where it can be supervised and controlled by the Student Government Association, the faculty, and the administration," the recommendation said.

"We trust that this action will be construed as an honest effort to discharge our responsibility toward the Kentucky Baptist Convention," added the statement. "Both corporately and independently the trustees have searched their hearts on this matter.

"...We believe we have acted conscientiously, responsibly, and in the best interest of the students who are the college's ultimate reason for being," the statement said.

The trustees added that since the initial action in October, four "well-attended and well-beleived campus-side social events had made manifest to us the gratitude of the students and had increased our confidence that such occasions will be kept in the finest moral atmosphere."

In other actions, the Baptist college trustees adopted a record \$3.3 million budget for 1969-70, an increase of \$300,000 over the previous budget.

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**"American Youth Has Lost  
Its Guts," Students Told**

(3-19-69)

FORT WORTH (BP)--"America's youth has lost its guts!"

So charged R. Keith Parks, secretary to Southeast Asia for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board during the 20th annual College Student Missions Conference at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary here.

"Oh, you scream about poverty, war, love and everything under the sun," Parks told more than 1,500 students attending the conference.

"Then you cop out--take a trip and lie down among your flowers under the sun. The over-30 folks get the rap. They are answering questions nobody asks," he said.

The missions leader added that youth have no right to know the church unless they have something better to demonstrate.

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Speaking on "Christ and Crisis," Parks said that American youth have two options: to turn their backs on Jesus Christ and his church, or to get into relationship with him and stay in it.

"Christ didn't just solve crises," he said. "He solved the cause for crisis."

The address by Parks was one of four major messages at the annual student missions conference dealing with the overall theme, "Crisis," as it relates to Christ, to the church, to the individual, and to the college campus.

Other major addresses were brought by Arthur B. Rutledge, executive secretary-treasurer of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta; Jerry Buckner, Baptist student director at Memphis State University, Memphis, Tenn.; and Clyde Fant, professor at Southwestern Seminary where sessions were held.

Small group discussions led by career missionaries and young people who had been involved in short-term missionary assignments enabled the students to ask questions about Baptist missions work.

"This is a missions conference," declared Buckner in the final message. "You are here because you have some concern for missions. But do not be deceived in the warm glow of your own righteousness that what you are going to do 'someday' is an adequate response to the claim Christ has upon your life. Missions begins in the secret recesses of your own soul, the Proving ground for tomorrow is today," he said.

During two services, a total of 166 students made decisions, including 73 recommitments of life to Christ, 43 decisions for Christian service, and 47 for missions service.

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Look To Future, Criswell  
Tells Golden Gate Group

(3-19-69)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--The president of the Southern Baptist Convention, speaking at a convocation celebrating the 25th anniversary of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary here, said the seminary should not be intent upon looking back at its past, but to looking up and out and on to the future.

W. A. Criswell, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Dallas and president of the 11.3 million-member convention, spoke both to a convocation of students, faculty, staff and general public, and also to a special anniversary banquet for the seminary's faculty, staff, board of trustees, and development council.

"As glorious as has been our past 25 years (at Golden Gate seminary), it is nothing comparable to the glory of God's grace in this work and in your lives in the next quarter of a century," he said.

During his speech, Criswell said that he had changed his attitude and position on some matters of interest to the seminary students.

Indicating that he had changed on the race issue, Criswell said that when he preached "the open door sermon" a few weeks following his election as SBC president advocating admission of those of all races to church membership, one of the most affluent members of the 15,000-member church became offended and said he would not come back.

"This just plows your heart out," Criswell said with emotion, "but we have no other choice--we must change."

Using himself as an example, Criswell said that his maternal grandfather was a doctor during the Civil War, and that his mother was an "unreconstructed rebel" all the days of her life. He said he was introduced to deep-seated prejudice as a child.

"We are not purposely taught these things, we just grew up with them," he said. "They are part of the complexion of our culture and society and are hard to deal with," Criswell added.

He related that a Latin-American came during the invitation at his church and asked if he would be welcome as a member, or if he would be an embarrassment to the church. Criswell said he could not conceive in the name of Christ what we have been doing or saying that a man would have to ask if he and his family would be welcomed in the church.

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Baptists are divided in so many ways that these divisions are often very hard to overcome, he added. "But we must do it: I must do it; you must do it; our churches must do it, and our denomination must do it."

Criswell also said he had changed his opinion that students in the seminary should not be married, and that he no longer seeks to label preachers and put them in categories.

"Don't copy anybody else," he said. "But if you do, be sure that he is a good preacher. Just be yourself and let God work through you."

He urged the students at the seminary to get ready for the days and years ahead, for "the mission field needs you; the church needs you; the denomination needs you."

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Fund Drives, Budget, Raises  
Okayed By Golden Gate Board

(3-19-69)

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)--The board of trustees for Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary approved here fund-raising projects for a \$1 million Learning Resource Center and the endowment of a \$300,000 chair of missions and evangelism, in addition to adopting a record budget and granting a cost-of-living increase to faculty and staff.

Meeting in connection with the seminary's 25th anniversary celebration, the trustees approved a budget of \$790,355, an increase of \$71,250 over the current budget.

The budget also reflects a cost-of-living salary increase of about five per cent for the faculty, staff and employees.

Elected associate professor of New Testament was Wayne H. Peterson, professor at Louisiana College, Pineville, La. He is a graduate of the University of Corpus Christi, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, and has studied at the University of Switzerland under both Karl Barth and Emil Brunner.

In other action, the trustees authorized funds for architectural design of a pedestrian bridge linking the living and service complex of the seminary, and gave approval for seminary President Harold K. Graves to accept the nomination as governor of the Rotary for Northern California.

Officers re-elected by the board include Dr. Ernest P. Guy of Biburon, Calif., a physician, as president; J. C. Segler, pastor of Crown Heights Baptist Church of Oklahoma City, as vice president; Robert N. Stapp, pastor of Brooklyn Avenue Baptist Church, Seattle, Wash., as secretary; and John B. Hines, pastor of First Southern Baptist Church, Garden Grove, Calif., as associate secretary.

The 25th anniversary celebration week began with a special address to the students, faculty, staff, trustees and development council by W. A. Carleton, vice president of the seminary.

Other special speakers for the week were Clifford Hoff, pastor of University Avenue Baptist Church in Honolulu, Hawaii, and W. A. Criswell, president of the Southern Baptist Convention and pastor of First Baptist Church, Dallas.

In his annual report to the trustees, Seminary President Graves cited the second highest cumulative enrollment in the seminary's history, and the highest since it moved to its Strawberry Point campus. The figure was 361 students.

Meeting concurrently with the trustees was the seminary development council, which elected J. E. Connally, president of the Connally Oil Co., of Abilene, Tex., as chairman for the 1969-70 year. The development council meeting featured a workshop in estate planning.

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