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July 17, 1972

Zippies, Baptists Clash  
At Democratic Convention

By Dana Driver

MIAMI BEACH (BP)--A band of "Zippies" disrupted a rock concert here by a group of Jesus people, most of them Southern Baptists from Burlington, N. C., during a side episode at the Democratic National Convention.

The Jesus people came out on the winning side, thanks to the help of four blacks from the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

Jerry Rubin, a leader of the "Yippies" (which includes the Zippie faction), angrily denounced the Jesus group and their cause in an emotion-charged interview afterwards with this reporter.

The New Directions, Inc., an interdenominational group composed primarily of Southern Baptists from Burlington, had come to the convention city for the Miami Baptist Association's "Demo '72," a Christian witnessing effort.

About 45 of the Jesus people had begun a noon rock concert at Flamingo Park, the bivouac area for most of the groups that had come to confront the Democrats with their special messages.

Every group imaginable was there, ranging from such religious cults as the Hari Krishna and Surfside Salvation Society to such secular groups as the National Coalition of Gay Organizations and the Women's Liberation Association.

About 10,000 were expected, but barely 2,000 were visible.

Some came with confrontation as their technique, seeking national exposure through the news media for their causes.

Especially vocal groups included the Youth International Party (Yippies and Zippies), the People's Coalition for Peace and Justice, the Students for Democratic Society, and the Vietnam Veterans Against the War.

But the clash between the Jesus people and the Zippies, a faction of the Youth International Party which wanted to put "zip" into the Democratic convention, was largely ignored by the mass media focusing on actions on the convention floor.

It all started when the Baptist-dominated group began to play their rock concert to a mixed audience of park residents--senior citizens who wandered in from the outside, children from a nearby swimming pool, and two cowboys armed with instamatic cameras just arriving from Oklahoma "to find where the action is."

The audience watched as the youths sang and gyrated to popular songs, most with dual meanings of God and love. The group gave every appearance of being a polished professional rock group.

Clad in jeans and bedecked with yellow and orange tee shirts, most of the Christian youth wore their hair long. The young men and women, both black and white, ranged in age from 15 to 21.

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After about 20 minutes, an angered Zippie pulled the plug to the group's amplification system without warning.

Calmly, the group's director, J. L. Williams of Burlington, asked the radicals for cooperation and "a chance to do our thing." His remarks brought shouts of mixed reaction from the Zippie and Yippie youth in the crowd.

Some yelled for continuance. Others shouted to stop the performance.

As if to settle the question, a band of about 25 Zippies, who earlier had been participating in a pot (marijuana) smoking demonstration under a large Elm tree 100 yards away, jumped onto the improvised stage--a trailer cut in half horizontally.

The intrusion began by pushing the Jesus people to the back of the stage area. Then it intensified.

The Zippies ripped out cords and wires to the amplifying instruments, and shouted through a battery-powered megaphone:

"Jesus freaks, go home. This is a political gathering, not a rock concert."

The crowd increased, anxious to find out what was happening. Arrayed before them on the stage was a job of sweaty bodies, some shirtless, waving placards, Zippie banners, and Viet Cong flags.

The New Directions stood numb, except for outstretched arms with index fingers pointing skyward, expressing: "One Way--Jesus."

Most of the Zippies on stage and several in the crowd began chanting: "Jesus freaks, go home."

Others in the crowd, including some Yippies and "straight" people, yelled in opposition: "Let 'em continue. They have a right of freedom of speech too."

The Zippie leaders continued to insist that Flamingo Park was only for political groups, not for Jesus freaks or rock concerts.

During the melee, leaders of the Jesus people sought negotiation. They tried to convince the Zippies they were only entertaining, and presenting Jesus. They did not want confrontation.

The Jesus people, including blacks and whites, remained cool throughout the incident.

Only one struggle broke out when a youth tried to grab the drummer's sticks. A scuffle began, but it quickly stopped when four big black youth jumped on the stage and separated the group.

The blacks identified themselves as members of the SCLC. Firmly they reprimanded the Zippie leaders for being hypocrits in not allowing the Christian group to continue.

"You're always yelling about freedom of assembly and speech for everyone, and now you're trying to deny it for groups that anger you," the blacks yelled at the Zippies.

The crowd agreed: "Let 'em play," they shouted. "They aren't hurting anyone."

The Zippies, frustrated by the apparent contradiction between their words and actions, reluctantly gave in and left the stage.

As they were leaving, this reporter spotted Rubin, a leader of the Yippies and one of the famed Chicago Seven arrested during the 1968 Democratic National Convention riots.

When asked about his stand on the incident, Rubin responded: "Sometimes force is necessary to get rid of insurgents who don't have a place here."

Asked if that meant some groups could have expression but others repression, he flashed back angrily: "Don't bait me. I don't like to be baited. This ends the interview. Get away from me."

The response drew another question. Rubin was asked if the pre-convention prediction of violence had been moderated because of contact with local (or other) religious leaders.

Incensed at the question, Rubin responded: "No, these damn Jesus freaks had nothing to do with it. I don't believe in what they're saying and none of them has talked with me; and I wouldn't talk with them even if they tried."

Asked if he believed in the power of God and the power of the Christian movement, Rubin retorted: "Jesus was a junkie. I don't want to be bothered by any more of those kinds of questions."

Mouthing clear, graphic profanity, Rubin told this reporter that if the questions continued, violence might ensue. With that, he left.

After the confrontation, the crowd of more than 200 spectators remained as the young Christians repaired their amplifying equipment and picked up where they had been stopped.

With even more force than before, the youth performed. The crowd responded with applause and shouts of "right on." Some flashed the "one way" sign back to the group.

Almost 30 minutes later, the young people wound up their concert. As they picked up their equipment, some were asked their reaction to the confrontation.

"I had been in riots before and knew how to keep my cool," responded Charles Aliston, 20, a black youth clad in blue jean coat and pants. A red beret perched on his head.

The Burlington youth, one of the lead singers, said he told the Zippies on the stage: "Jesus loves you, man, and we love you too."

Nancy Russell, a blond 16-year-old dressed in green denims and a bright orange Jesus tee-shirt, said: "I knew God was watching over us. I was a little scared, but the more I held up my 'one way' sign and prayed, the stronger I became."

Williams, founder and director of the North Carolina group and a Southern Baptist, characterized the confrontation as representative of the world situation.

Nobody cares about anyone except themselves, he lamented. "We wanted to show that we do care," he exclaimed.

"These people were afraid of us. They were so insecure they had to attack."

Asked if he was afraid, Williams said: "Not for myself, but I was concerned for the girls."

Williams, who added the group had been heckled before at other concerts, said that he "sort of expected" a physical confrontation at Miami, but not as much as they actually encountered.

As they left, the Christian youth made plans to march into Sen. George McGovern's headquarters at the Doral Hotel with their seven-foot cross to hold a prayer meeting.

Their plan had only partial success. On arrival, they found the hotel lobby jammed with Yippie and Zippie youth conducting a sit-in effort to lure the Democratic presidential candidate from his penthouse suite to talk with them about his stands on Vietnam and racism.

Kneeling on the steps of the motel beneath their cross, the Jesus people held a prayer vigil.

Shortly afterwards, they got into their chartered bus and left for North Carolina. Apparently one big confrontation a day with the Zippies was enough--even if they did come off the winners.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: Dana Driver, editor of the Baptist Men's Journal published by the SBC Brotherhood Commission, Memphis, is on special assignment for Baptist Press covering the Democratic National Convention. The Brotherhood Commission will mail BP photos on the above atory. A final roundup on Baptist activities at the convention will be mailed on Tuesday, July 18, when the main BP office in Nashville resumes regular mailings.

Indiana Board Approves  
380-Acre Encampment

7/17/72

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. (BP)--The Executive Board of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana has voted to recommend that the Convention launch a \$1,250,000 development of the State Encampment near Monrovia, Ind.

The Convention owns 380 acres of land 25 miles Southwest of Indianapolis.

The recommendation will be considered at the annual convention Nov. 15-17 which meets in Clarksville.

The development will involve seven phases of construction during the eight-year period 1973-1980.

When completed, the encampment will have five distinct types of facilities: a lodge which will contain conference rooms and will accommodate 150 people for dining and sleeping; a rustic camp area using tents; a village area providing small winterized cabins; a day camp and retreat area; and one undeveloped section reserved for rough camping and nature hikes. There will be four lakes on the property.

Financing for the project will be with borrowed funds to be repaid through the state convention budget and possibly through the state mission offering.

In July, 1966, the Executive Board voted to purchase 280 acres of the present encampment site. Since that time, four additional purchases of adjoining tracts have raised the acreage to 380 acres.

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Home Mission Board Appoints,  
Promotes Missionary Personnel

7/17/72

ATLANTA (BP)--The Home Mission Board of Directors meeting here appointed three new home missionaries, promoted two people from missionary associate to missionary status, and appointed nine to serve as missionary associates.

The Board of Directors also accepted the resignations of Warren Rawles, associate secretary in the department of Christian social ministries, Kenneth Chafin and Wilson Brumley.

Fred Mosely, assistant executive secretary of the Home Mission Board, will temporarily fill Chafin's position of secretary of the division of evangelism. Brumley's post as regional coordinator will be filled on an interim basis by Leonard Irwin, executive assistant in the Board's planning and coordination section.

Chafin will serve as pastor of South Main Baptist Church in Houston, Tex., and Brumley will be metro missions coordinator of Union Baptist Association in Houston. Rawles did not announce his future plans.

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William Lee and Essie Mae Kaufman of Louisville, Ky., were appointed to serve as directors of the Baptist center in Louisville for the department of Christian social ministries.

Currently pastor of Valley Station Baptist Church, Louisville, Kaufman has served pastorates in Falmouth, Williamstown, Demossville, and Louisville since 1947. He holds the M Div degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville.

Mrs. Viola Little Craig was appointed missionary to serve with her husband, Calvin C. Craig, Jr., field worker for the department of work with National Baptists in North Carolina. She is a graduate of Barber-Scotia College in Concord, N. C.

Robert and Joyce Holland, missionary associates in Eastern Indiana, were given full missionary status. Holland, who holds the MRE degree from Southern Seminary, is area superintendent of missions in Eastern Indiana under the department of associational services.

Appointed missionary associates were Miss Pitts Hughes, who will serve as field assistant for the department of special missions ministries; and James Latimer, who will serve as an inner-city pastor-director in Denver, Colo., and Michael Brown, who will direct the Milwaukee Baptist Center in Wisconsin, both under the church extension department.

Language missions department missionary associates appointed were Salvador and Juanita Barrientes in Salvador, Tex., Mr. and Mrs. Orlando Perez in Ysleta, Tex., and Ibelize and Rosa Veitia in Las Vegas, Nev.

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First HMB Super Summer  
'72 Seminar Ends in S. C.

7/17/72

By Tim Nicholas

GREENVILLE, N. C. (BP)--Super Summer '72, the evangelism seminar for high school youth, wrapped up its first three-week session at Furman University here in mid July.

Sponsored by the Home Mission Board's division of evangelism, the 230 students from nine states learned techniques of Christian witness first-hand.

After training led by Nathan Porter of the Home Mission Board, the students went to Greenville's parks and swimming pools to witness and work with children.

Another session of Super Summer '72 will be held at Furman, July 24-August 11, for another 230 students.

The department of evangelism hopes the young people will return to their communities with an evangelistic fervor which will be carried into relationships with their fellow students.

Enthusiasm ran high for the students. Many admitted this was the first time they had done any witnessing.

Jerry Barton, 17, of Charlotte, N. C., said, "I've had some pretty close experiences with the Lord, but when it came to witnessing-- nothing.

"Here, they don't give you an opportunity, they throw it at you," he continued.

After two weeks of training, the students were bused to Atlanta, to train young people there. Thirteen Atlanta churches participated.

Super Summer students taught witnessing clinics to the young people in the host churches during the weekend, went out to witness with them, and held a religious folk concert at one of Atlanta's major parks.

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High school students and college student counselors alike were astounded with the responsibility they were given. This was one of the purposes of Super Summer, said Barry St. Clair, youthful director of the Board's work in high school evangelism.

"These kids don't know what they can do for the Lord," he said, "because most of them have never been given responsibility before."

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Tim Nicholas is photo-feature editor in the Home Mission Board's department of editorial services.

Britt Towery Assumes Post  
At Houston Baptist College

7/17/72

HOUSTON (BP)--Britt E. Towery Jr., a Southern Baptist missionary since 1956, has been named director of religious activities and lecturer in world religions and Christianity at Houston Baptist College here.

Towery, a native of Brownwood, Tex., had been serving in that capacity as a visiting professor while on missionary furlough.

His overseas ministry included evangelism and church development in Taiwan and teaching and directing the Baptist Communications Center in Hong Kong.

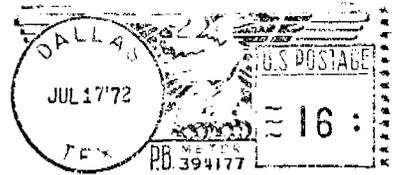
He is a graduate of Howard Payne College, Brownwood, and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

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