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Two Longhorns Credit God
For Successful Season, Lives

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP)--When University of Texas football coach Fred Akers and Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell led the Longhorns to an undefeated regular season and a Cotton Bowl berth, they had more in common than similar goals.

They both grew up in modest circumstances in very large families--Akers was one of nine children, Campbell one of 11.

Akers picked cotton at Blytheville, Ark., where he was born, and Campbell picked roses at his hometown of Tyler, Tex., known as the "Rose Capital of the World."

But their most outstanding similarity--one for which they are recognized by friends and associates--is their outspoken profession of God's leadership in their lives.

Aker's pastor, Ralph Smith, at Hyde Park Baptist Church, Austin, says the championship coach's faith is "something he lives every day" and was the primary factor in the Longhorn's success.

When Campbell was honored in December with the Heisman Trophy as the outstanding college football player in the country, he gave the credit to God.

A daily Bible reader who prays before each game, Campbell said of his extraordinary talent, "It's a gift that God gave me, and this is what I am meant to do."

Akers, in his first year as Texas' head coach, entered the world in Blytheville the same day that a tornado struck the town. His father was a "jack of all trades" - sharecropper, plumber, bricklayer and electrician.

Young Akers picked cotton and mowed lawns to buy school clothes. One of the turning points in his life came in the fifth grade when a junior high school teacher, Mitchell Johns, took an interest in him. He helped clothe Akers and encouraged him academically and culturally. Fred became the only member of his family to graduate from high school.

At Blytheville High, he overcame his small 155-pound, 5-8 frame to become All-America in football. The principal announced the honor to the student body on the same day he disclosed that Akers had won an essay contest from 700 entries in a three-state region. The title of the essay was "The Importance of Automobiles to Their Community." Akers' family had never owned one.

While he was starring as a defensive back and place kicker for the University of Arkansas, one of Fred's teammates "who became a preacher," helped lead him to Christ.

"It was a special experience for me," recalls Akers, "one I'll never forget, and it has been one of the most outstanding experiences of my life."

Akers quickly became known as a coach who could turn things around. Overnight he reversed Edinburg High School's football fortunes, recording a 19-9-1 record in three seasons. He led Lubbock High to a 7-3 record, their first winning season in a decade.

Starting in 1966 Akers spent nine seasons at UT, then accepted his first college head coaching job at the University of Wyoming. The first season wound up with a 2-9 record. Then in characteristic fashion, the youthful coach led the team to an about face with an 8-4 record, the co-championship of the Western Athletic Conference and a trip to the Fiesta Bowl.

Akers succeeded Darrell Royal and a 5-5-1 season at Texas, their worst in many years. Of course, in his first season, they were 11-1.

Like his coach, Earl Campbell had a childhood marked by struggles for life's necessities. His father died when he was nine and his mother raised her 11 children by herself in an unpainted five-room frame house. Campbell, who was nicknamed "the Tyler Rose" in college, helped grow roses on two acres near the house.

Earl had his problems. By the time he was in high school, he says he was smoking a pack of cigarettes a day, drinking and gambling. Then he became a Christian and joined the Hopewell Baptist Church No. 1 near their home. Along with his mother, it was one of the major influences in his life.

It has been said that Earl worships his mother and the Lord, but his mother says the Lord won out in high school. She tried to discourage him from playing football, but he felt that the Lord wanted him to use his athletic ability. He used it to lead the nation in 1977 with 1,744 yards and 19 touchdowns.

Campbell drinks root beer. He and his girl friend were asked to leave an Austin establishment because they refused to order an alcoholic drink. He says, "I'm just happy that I realize who the Supreme Being is. Without Him I don't believe I could do anything."

Both Akers' and Campbell's Christian influence on the 1977 Longhorns is openly professed by coaches and players. Earl's teammates' feelings about his success were voiced by an offensive lineman who said, "You can't help but love him."

The team prays together before and after games. "People ask me if I pray to win a ball game," said Akers. "I've never prayed to win anything in my life. My prayer is that each member of the team can live up to his ability. When I pray, I think it's going to be answered, and I think that belief, more than anything else, is the strength of anyone's faith."

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(BP) Photo of Fred Akers mailed to Baptist state papers by Dallas Bureau of Baptist Pr ss.

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Gov rnment Moves To
Dismiss O'Hair Suit

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WASHINGTON (BP)--The lawsuit filed by atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hair against the national motto "In God We Trust" is now pending in the U. S. District Court for the Western District of Texas (in Austin).

Here is the chain of events according to the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, which is monitoring the case: On September 1, 1977, O'Hair filed suit to have the court declare unconstitutional the law that requires the national motto "In God We Trust" to be imprinted on the coins and paper currency of the United States.

On November 11, 1977, the attorneys for the government filed a motion to dismiss the suit on the grounds that O'Hair does not have sufficient personal stake in the outcome to bring such a suit and that she did not state sufficient grounds for the suit.

O'Hair was then given until January 5, 1978, to respond to the motion to dismiss her suit. In the meantime, she hired new lawyers, who filed an amended complaint at the same time they answered the government's arguments for dismissal of the case.

The attorneys for the government have filed a reply to the amended complaint and have renewed their motion that the case be dismissed. The court at the time of this writing (January 27, 1978) has not announced its decision on the motion to dismiss the suit.

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N. C. Baptists Seek End
To Wake Forest Problem

RALEIGH, N. C. (BP)--The General Board of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina approved a recommendation designed to end the conflict between the convention and Wake Forest University over acceptance of federal funds.

Wake Forest University trustees precipitated the crisis Dec. 9, 1977, when they voted to accept funds despite a vote of the state convention to the contrary. In November, the convention had approved the university's acceptance of all but \$85,000 of a \$299,600 National Science Foundation research grant to the university's biology department. The convention ruled that the \$85,000 portion, granted for construction of a greenhouse on campus, violated convention policies that limit use of federal funds to "services rendered."

The recommendation basically delays "making a harsh, quick decision" and allows time for further study of the situation, according to Cecil A. Ray, the state convention's general secretary, who has opposed the Wake Forest action.

The recommendation instructs the Wake Forest-Convention Relationship Committee to proceed with six previously scheduled hearings over the state for formulation of a report to the May 30-31 General Board meeting, when a final action is expected.

Already state convention leaders have received some 80 resolutions, predominantly opposing the Wake Forest action, from churches, pastors' conferences and associations throughout North Carolina.

The General Board's executive committee will meet March 9 on the Wake Forest campus for a dialogue with such groups as the Wake Forest trustees, biology department faculty, student body leaders, and members of the convention's Services Rendered Committee and Wake Forest-Convention Relationships Committee.

Ray noted that a spirit of unity and patience, underlined by "determination for clear answers" prevailed in the General Board's meeting. Before the session closed, 450 persons prayed silently, many on their knees, as Forrest Feezor of Shelby, N. C., 85-year-old retired executive secretary of Texas Baptists and former North Carolina pastor, prayed for God "to heal the fracture" between the university and the convention.

Other parts of the recommendation urge renewed efforts to seek a solution to the dilemma, study of reported "inconsistencies" in convention policy on use of federal funds by the hospital and Bowman-Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest, consultation by the General Board's executive committee with the convention's nominating committee for preparation of materials on the role of Baptist trustees and their relationship to the convention and institutions, a study of how all North Carolina Baptist schools conform to state convention provisions, and development of an educational program on how Baptists own and operate institutions.

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Allen, Tanenbaum Set
For ABC-TV Dialogue

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FORT WORTH (BP)--Jimmy R. Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), and Rabbi Marc Tanenbaum of the American Jewish Committee, will participate in a nationally televised conversation program on ABC-TV, Feb. 12.

Appearing on the network's "Directions" program, sponsored by the SBC Radio and Television Commission in cooperation with ABC, Allen, pastor of First Baptist Church, San Antonio, and Tanenbaum will discuss human values and some of the understandings which developed from a dialogue seminar between Baptists and Jews in December in Dallas. The seminar was sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and the American Jewish Committee, which Tanenbaum serves as national director of inter-religious affairs.

"Directions," ABC's public affairs program, will be aired on the network at 12:30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, although local stations may vary time of broadcast.

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RIDGECREST, Calif. (BP)--Eugene S. Royal, minister of music and education at Immanuel Baptist Church here, is recovering from injuries received in a Jan. 16 plane crash which killed his wife.

Mrs. Crissa Royal died from exposure in near zero temperatures when the plane her husband was piloting went down in a driving snow storm in the Sierra Nevada Mountains while enroute to the California Baptist Evangelism Conference. The wreckage was discovered Jan. 18.

In intensive care in Ridgecrest (Calif.) Hospital, he is reported in good condition although suffering from severe frostbite, multiple lacerations and a dislocated shoulder. He is the son of R. Feltcher Royal of Concord, Calif., a retired faculty member of Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. She is the daughter of L. D. Wood of Cleburn, Tex., a retired employee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, Atlanta.

Other survivors include three children, Eugene Jr. and Kathy, students at Hardin-Simmons University, Abilene, Tex., and Carolyn, a student at Ridgecrest High School.

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Nursing Grad Initiates
'Thanksgiving Service'

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GUADALAJARA, Mexico (BP)--Virginia Cisneros is a Mexican Baptist who had a better idea than to participate in the Catholic mass which follows graduation in the state school of nursing.

Instead, she had her Emanuel Baptist Church here sponsor what she called a "Thanksgiving Service" in gratitude to God for allowing her to graduate.

Seventeen of the 35 in her graduating class came to the service. Each received a New Testament from Cisneros after she spoke briefly of how God had blessed her. The service closed with an invitation to the graduates to join the young Baptist in kneeling at the front of the church.

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Hearing Is Believing
For Seminary President

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NASHVILLE (BP)--Hearing is believing for Guatemalan seminary president Enrique Diaz who flew to Nashville at the expense of the Woodmont Baptist Church to undergo tests and be fitted with a hearing device.

Diaz, 36, has been losing his hearing since the age of 10. As the president of the Guatemalan Baptist Seminary, he was less and less able to interact with students.

Southern Baptist missionary A. Clark Scanlon, former president of the seminary, had a hearing problem similar to Diaz'. He got help at the Bill Wilkerson clinic in Nashville when he was missionary in residence at Woodmont during a furlough.

When the Woodmont missions committee--already familiar with Diaz and Guatemala from two groups of their laymen who went to help rebuild from the disastrous earthquake of 1976--was made aware of Diaz' need, they voted to bring him to Nashville and provide the hearing aid for him.

All the good intentions were almost to no avail when Diaz was in a serious automobile accident the day before he was to leave for the states. He was uninjured but his car was wrecked and he was so far south in Guatemala he had to be picked up and flown to Guatemala City in a private plane in order to make his northbound connection.

Then, when he arrived in Nashville, the Bill Wilkerson clinic was closed and not scheduled to reopen until after the weekend, too late for Diaz. But the director of the clinic came and tested Diaz, making the trip fruitful and bringing foreign missions home to Woodmont Baptist Church.