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March 28, 1980

80-53

80 Baylor Girls  
Pose for Playboy

By Jerilynn Armstrong

WACO, Texas (BP)--Responding to Playboy magazine's report that it photographed about 80 Baylor University coeds, the school's president, Abner V. McCall, said disciplinary action will be taken against any Baylor woman appearing nude in the magazine.

Playboy photographer David Chan said response at the Southern Baptist university was about 45 below the average of other Southwest Conference schools, and that most of the women were seniors.

McCall said: "Southern Baptists have several moral codes that we uphold and pornography is not one of them. If a Baylor woman chooses to pose nude for Playboy then Baylor's disciplinary committee will take action."

The recent photo session with Chan was a preliminary screening from which four or five finalists will be selected to pose for publication later this spring. None of the preliminary shots were taken nude.

During the Playboy controversy three senior editors of the Baylor student newspaper, the Lariat, were fired and two journalism faculty members resigned in protest.

McCall said he didn't object to balanced news coverage of the Playboy episode, only to editorials advocating a stance contrary to Baptist doctrines stated in university policy guiding editorials, or to point-of-view stories that did so.

Donald M. Williams, associate professor of journalism, ceased teaching March 3, but will be paid in full through the end of the school year.

F. Dennis Hale, associate professor of journalism, later resigned in protest to the administration's treatment of Williams and the three student editors, but will continue his teaching responsibilities through the end of the 1980 summer term.

After suspending the printing of the Lariat for two weeks, the board of publications elected three new editors in a March 24 meeting. They are Philip Brown, editor-in-chief; Jim Bridges, city editor; and Keith Howard, news editor. The Lariat resumed publication March 26.

"The new editors have had previous experience with the Lariat in various leadership roles and will do an excellent job in finishing out the school year," said Loyal Gould, chairman of the journalism department.

Gould said no new rules or enforcements had been placed on the Lariat staff as a result of the recent controversy.

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"President McCall reiterated the policy which was present when I took this position in 1974, but did not place additional controls," Gould said. "The policy has always included that editorials shall not be written favoring atheism, homosexuality, promiscuity, pornography and use of narcotics or alcohol, and that policy has not changed."

Asked if the recent shake-up in the Lariat staff and faculty will hurt the reputation and enrollment of Baylor's journalism program, Gould said he thinks it will have the opposite effect.

"This has been an absolutely fascinating experience and one of the biggest public relations coups I have seen," he said. "The journalism department has received many supportive letters and newspaper editorials, along with requests for information and applications."

McCall said his office has received more than 800 letters and less than two dozen were critical. "Baylor has also been commended by numerous churches, our trustees and the Texas Baptist Executive Board," he said.

Was he surprised by the response?

"No, I was not at all surprised," he said. "As a matter of fact, I would have been more surprised if we had not received it."

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Baptist Mission in Kenya  
Sells Half-Acre, Gains 19

Baptist Press  
3/28/80

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP)—The Baptist mission of Kenya recently signed a contract selling their half-acre of industrial land in Nairobi and providing for purchase of a 19-acre plot on the city outskirts.

In addition to paying for part of the new Baptist land, the industrial plastics firm which bought the old site agreed to rebuild Baptist communications and Baptist publications buildings on the new plot and pay moving expenses. The trade not only gives the Baptists more land, free from problems of industrial noise and poor accessibility, but also gives the plastics firm the room it needs to expand.

Besides the new communications and publications buildings, the mission (organization of Southern Baptist missionaries) and the Baptist Convention of Kenya plan to build mission and convention offices and some residences on the new property, said Laura Lee Stewart, Southern Baptist missionary press representative for Kenya. Construction is expected to begin soon.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by Richmond bureau of Baptist Press.

Golden Gate Names  
New Library Head

Baptist Press  
3/28/80

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP)—Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary has named Cecil Ray White as its new library director, effective July 1.

White, the assistant librarian for the Fleming Memorial Library at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary for the past ten years, is a former Illinois Baptist pastor. He earned a master of divinity degree from Southwestern Seminary, and a master of library science degree from North Texas State University.

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Bilingual Church Ministers  
To Community in Transition

By Jerilynn W. Armstrong

HOUSTON, Texas (BP)—Trinity Baptist Church in Houston made a life-changing decision in 1970 when the members voted to become a bilingual congregation.

"During the 1960s the neighborhood was in transition as an influx of Mexican and Mexican-American families settled in the area. Instead of moving to the suburbs, the church voted to minister to its new community," says Alfonso Flores, pastor of the church since 1974.

Today a Sunday morning visitor can attend an English worship service at 9 o'clock or the Spanish worship service at 11:30. The attendance at 9 a.m. averages 75 to 100 and at 11:30, 375 to 400.

"We also include several bilingual classes in our Sunday School program since preschoolers and first graders often need bilingual teachers until they learn English through the public school system, and many adults feel more comfortable in a Spanish-speaking class," Flores says.

Trinity Baptist has grown steadily since its decision to go bilingual. A beautiful, two-year-old building houses the educational program and is utilized during the week as a day-care center for children of working mothers in the area.

"The day-care program is just one way the church is attempting to minister to this neighborhood," Flores says. He hopes to start an afternoon Sunday school class soon in another area of Houston which has a large concentration of Hispanics.

The church sponsors a 30-minute television program called "La Vida Abundante" (The Abundant Life) which includes sacred music, an interview and a brief message by Flores. The program is televised in Houston, San Antonio and Chicago.

"We've received many positive responses from our television viewers and have been pleased to discover that many Hispanic Catholics and evangelicals watch each week," he says.

Trinity also is actively involved in the Houston Area Asociación Bautista Latino Americana (Latin American Baptist Association) which includes approximately 25 churches. That association is part of Union Baptist Association.

"I believe we have just begun to tap the potential here and in the future can become one of the great churches in the city and state," says Flores.

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(BP) photo will be mailed separately to Baptist state newspapers by the Sunday School Board bureau of Baptist Press.

Wrapup

## Spiritual Power a Rudder

## In a Sea of Ethical Dilemmas

By Robert O'Brien

NEW YORK (BP)--Southern Baptists from across the nation spent three days here exploring ways to bring the resources of the Christian faith to bear on the ethical dilemmas of the 1980s.

The minds of more than 400 participants whirled amidst an overwhelming array of expert commentary on the ethical dimensions of hunger, education, economics, family life, race, personal lifestyles, international issues, church-state problems, women's concerns and technology.

But Jimmy R. Allen, closing speaker for the seminar sponsored by the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, suggested a principle calculated to help his listeners avoid foundering in a sea of complexity with no rudder.

"Disarray without results from spiritual disorder within," declared Allen, president of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission, Fort Worth, Texas.

He challenged participants to sidestep the turmoil which issues from "the deadness of a people who call on Christ's name but don't understand his presence." He urged them to realize that God is "working in ways far greater than we can understand."

"We have often made God a Southern Baptist tribal deity and have difficulty understanding him," Allen said.

"Will we be God's children in dealing with these crucial issues or founder futilely amidst them?" he asked, reminding his audience that the Bible records an episode where Jesus wept over his people "missing the moment when God was moving among them."

Allen and other seminar speakers urged the participants to avoid simplistic solutions to complex problems and to deal constructively with difference and difficulty.

"One of the saddest sins of our time is the loss of confidence in other people," said Albert McClellan, associate executive secretary of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. "We see it most often in the cynicism of constant negativism, the impetuous and thoughtless judgmentalism, and a quick, caustic analysis of other people and their motives."

In contrast to God, "we don't trust people, so we surround them with endless legalities," McClellan said.

Noted theologian and church historian Martin Marty declared that if the church is to gear up for the challenge of the 1980s it must avoid several "hazards."

The "hazards," he said, include the "new apocalypticism," simplistic answers espoused by media evangelists, and the "unyielding ideologies" of "Christian militants" who refuse to listen to or cooperate with people of different viewpoints.

A variety of speakers with a variety of perspectives explored what Christian Life Commission Executive Director Foy Valentine called the "life and death ethical issues for the human race."

The three days were "a time of interface between the gospel and the world, and not a time of propagandizing opinions of any individual speaker or participant," added W. David Sapp, the commission's director of organization and seminar organizer.

Participants heard an array of speakers, and asked them questions in areas such as:

--Church-State: "The self-interest of some religious groups in getting government money has made them abandon their zeal for separation of church and state," said John Swomley, professor of Christian ethics at St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City. "Some religious groups, notably Baptists, Quakers, Seventh Day Adventists and Jews, learned long ago that the fewer privileges they ask for or accept for themselves from government, the less government intrusion."

--Hunger: The world, said hunger expert Frances More Lappe, will solve the "outrage of needless hunger" only when individuals take greater responsibility to cut through the myths and take effective action. She debunked a "myth" that scarcity is the cause of hunger. The problem, she said, is that of increasing concentration of control over food into the hands of fewer and fewer people from the village level to the level of international trade.

--Race: "Blacks have come a long way (in achieving liberty) but we still have a long way to go," said Benjamin Hooks, NAACP executive director and ordained Baptist minister. Noting that 50 percent of black children still attend schools as integrated as those in 1954, he said, "Sadly churches have joined the movement (to keep schools segregated), not for religious reasons, but because they don't believe in integration."

--Personal lifestyles: "We need people who will understand the violence that we (the American society) revere and see it as the ultimate human degradation," said former U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark, who urged ending the glorification of violence, and called for handgun control.

--International issues: "The selfishness of sovereign states--large and small"--causes the breakdown of world peace, said UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim, who urged the religious community to continue efforts toward peaceful solutions of world problems.

In other sessions environmentalist Barry Commoner discussed energy; Mercer University President R. Kirby Godsey, education; Christian social ethicist J. Philip Wogaman, economics; White House Conference on Families chairman Jim Guy Tucker, families; presidential assistant Sarah Weddington, women's issues; and author, educator, inventor, philosopher and architect Buckminster Fuller, technology and ethics.

The 85-year-old Fuller struck a theme of the conference, urging Southern Baptists to cope with the ethics of modern technology by daring to be "brave enough and naive enough to love and to trust."

With the technology available to destroy humankind, he said, the decade of the 1980s holds an awesome challenge for global society. "In the next 10 years, we're going to find out whether humankind is going to stay on this planet."