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Baylor Strikes Back
At Devastating Disorder

By Keith Randall

WACO, Texas (BP)--A group of unusual "students" were at Baylor University this summer.

Like most other students, they came from throughout the United States, lived in campus dormitories, ate in the campus cafeterias and were eager to learn. But that's where the similarities stopped.

These people didn't sit in classrooms taking lecture notes every day. They worked for five hours a day, five days a week, relearning how to speak. Victims of the communication disorder known as "aphasia," their average age was 43, and they came from all walks of life. The group included a musician, an optometrist, an ophthalmologist, a former chief of police, a farmer and a housewife. All had one thing in common--great difficulty speaking words they once spoke with ease.

Aphasia comes without warning, with little respect to age or career. Although the disorder has a fancy name, there's nothing fancy about it. It's the loss of speech and language caused by brain damage due to tumor or infection, or as the result of an accident.

Since all aphasics once spoke normally, the consequences of being victimized by aphasics are devastating. It can cause marriages to break up, families to be destroyed and in some cases, even suicide.

"You could probably ask 10 people on the street what aphasia is, and I'd be willing to bet all 10 wouldn't know," said David L. Rivers, head of the recently formed Aphasia Rehabilitation Institute at Baylor. "Aphasia is, in my opinion, the most unknown disorder in this country, yet in terms of what it does and its effects, the most devastating. The problems it creates are immense in their magnitude."

He and others in Baylor's Speech, Hearing and Language Clinic founded Aphasia Rehabilitation Institute within the past year. It is the only such institute in the world, offering intensive therapy for aphasia victims.

But according to Rivers, this institute won't even come close to being able to treat all aphasics in the country. Each year, at least 84,000 individuals are stricken with the disorder. The Baylor institute can handle only about 25 of them during each intensive 10-week therapy session it offers. That's because intensive therapy requires one-to-one counseling--and there aren't enough clinicians to go around, whether it be graduate students in the Baylor program, or professionals. At present, the intensive therapy sessions come only once a year, during the summer.

The aphasic can "see" the word he is trying to say in his mind, but is unable to speak it, Rivers said. "The patient sees the word as if it's written on a piece of paper, but getting the word to come out is extremely difficult. In essence, the patient cannot 'decode' his own speech."

What makes aphasia so frustrating is that in all cases, the victim was able to speak normally at one time.

This summer's patients came from as far away as New York and California to obtain the intensive therapy. Spouses were encouraged to accompany the aphasics, and group counseling was offered for them separately.

So far, the institute has a 100 percent success rate. Many leave the institute able to rejoin the workforce. Others are only able to use the telephone--but it's something they didn't dream they would ever be able to do again.

Once the intensive therapy session ended Aug. 11, this special group of "students" left and Rivers returned to teaching regular classroom sessions. But he envisions the day when the university will have a full-fledged facility which would allow for year-round therapy sessions, and which would provide the most state-of-the-art equipment. Perhaps then, the Baylor institute will make even more dreams come true.

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Triple Killing Shocks
University Of Richmond

By Frank Douglas

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RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Troy L. Wirtz, a 20-year-old University of Richmond football player, apparently shot and killed his former fiancée, her mother and then himself Aug. 13.

Police said they heard gunshots after they arrived at 4 a.m. at the house.

The victims were identified as Donna Nanson, 20, and her mother, Shirley, 49. A brother, Eddie, 17, also was shot and was in critical condition after undergoing surgery.

According to police, Wirtz entered the home with a key, shot Eddie and then met the woman in the hall, where they argued and he shot them and then himself.

Police had trouble identifying Wirtz because he was shot in the face and because he was from out-of-town. Dal Shealy, football coach at UR, made a tentative identification early Saturday afternoon, but a positive identification was not made until much later.

Barry Barnum, director of athletic media relations at the University of Richmond, said Wirtz's teammates were "deeply shocked and hurt" and both coaches and players had decided not to talk to reporters about Wirtz.

Wirtz had attended George Walton High School in Marietta, Ga., where he excelled in sports. He was an all-region offensive tackle during high school and was supposed to start at that position with the Spiders in the fall. He was a 6'6", 263-pound junior studying biology.

The University of Richmond has a programmatic relationship with the Baptist General Association of Virginia. The state Baptist convention provides funds for specifically designated programs and 20 percent of the University of Richmond trustees are nominated by the BGAV board.

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(Frank Douglas is a staff writer for the Richmond News, Richmond, Va.)

Baptist Memorial Hospital
Joins Television Network

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MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)--Baptist Memorial Hospital has joined a new television network whose programming is aimed at the nation's patients and those who care for them.

Beginning in September, the Milwaukee-based American Network, a division of American Medical Buildings, will broadcast a wide range of medically oriented programs via the WESTAR V satellite into selected hospitals across the country.

The service will be threefold, Robert Gordon, assistant vice president, said. American Network's teleconferencing channel will beam live and videotaped medical education, continuing education and a variety of management and clinical programs.

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A second channel will offer patient education and general health information programs to supplement existing patient education material provided by the hospital on closed circuit TV.

The third service is a hospital data channel that, via a micro-computer service, will allow Baptist Memorial to send and receive data (such as electronic mail services).

Baptist Memorial will begin offering its own programming via satellite to American Network affiliates throughout the country by the first of the year. Through the use of a local uplink (or transmitting station) facility, Baptist Memorial would broadcast a variety of continuing medical education seminars.

The hospital also plans to provide, via satellite, 24-hour news and 24-hour sports entertainment for patients at Baptist Memorial-East and the Medical Center.

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Threats Won't Sidetrack
Hispanic Church Construction

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GODLEY, Texas (BP)--Despite tension in the community, hostile petitions and vandalism, a new Hispanic mission in Godley will be built as planned, according to Pastor Gordon R. Bergstrom of First Church, Godley.

Land for the mission was donated by dairyman Roy Carrell. On July 30, about 30 Hispanic and Anglo men sank steel posts and strung barbed wire around the land. The next day they discovered the fence had been cut and the posts bent over. Carrell's pasture fence also had been cut, and some of his cattle had escaped.

"It gives you a sick feeling to think that people feel this way," Bergstrom said. "But we are committed to see this project through."

Opponents reportedly see the mission as a "flophouse" or rescue mission and think transient illegal aliens will be attracted by prospects of free lodging and food. Some neighbors have denied the mission access to nearby water.

The mission congregation began meeting in Carrell's barn about three years ago, then moved to the civic center and finally to First Church, with 70-90 in weekly attendance. Texas Baptist Men retirees are expected to help build the mission. Lynn Godsey is the mission pastor.

Godley is about 25 miles southwest of Fort Worth, Texas.

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Baylor President
Undergoes Triple Bypass

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DALLAS (BP)--Baylor University President Herbert H. Reynolds is in good condition following triple bypass surgery Aug. 8 at the Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas.

The surgical procedure lasted three hours, a normal time for the procedure, said the thoracic surgeon who performed the bypass. Reynolds was moved from the cardiac care unit to a private room on Aug. 11.

Reynolds was hospitalized for 10 days in June at Hillcrest Baptist Medical Center, Waco, Texas, following a heart attack in his home. He was admitted to the Baylor University Medical Center Aug. 6 after a cardiac catheterization test performed at Waco's Providence Hospital indicated the bypass surgery would be necessary.

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Hunger Foes Face
Apathy, Futility

By Tim Fields

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Southern Baptists are gaining momentum in their efforts to deal with world hunger but must continue to fight persistent feelings of futility and apathy, participants at a Christian Life conference were told.

"Whenever you begin thinking about the hunger problem around our world, you can be overwhelmed with the statistics, if that's all you look at," said John Cheyne, senior consultant for human need ministries for the Foreign Mission Board.

"When you think about the 500 million to one billion people who are constantly hungry in the world, you ask, 'Is this problem not so much bigger than we are that it might be futile to even try to touch the hem of the garment?'"

But Cheyne said instead of giving up we must begin to solve the hunger problem by putting our weight down in those areas where we feel we have the gifts of God.

"We have the resources from the Lord," Cheyne said, "not just money but the kind of commitment and dedication reflected by 3,200 missionaries around the world in 100 different countries. Southern Baptists have in place more administrative personnel to carry out a job than any relief organization in the entire world," he said.

"I'm not saying every one of those 3,200 missionaries is involved in this type of ministry but I do say we have in place the resources as well as thousands upon thousands of lay volunteers who are willing to address their lives in going overseas to get involved.

"We can truthfully say, as a denomination, we have always been concerned about hunger," Cheyne said. "However, it was not until 1978, marking the first time Southern Baptists put World Hunger Day on our church calendars, we began to respond significantly."

Southern Baptist annual giving, only \$81,000 in 1971, has grown to \$5.5 million in 1982.

"The 1978 World Hunger Day stirred things up and that amount just about doubled each of the first three years," he said.

In spite of more than \$2 million designated for hunger relief so far in 1983, Cheyne told participants, because of increased requests from missionaries involved in hunger relief projects, funds are dangerously low.

"Funds on hand have become so small we can no longer take a chance on funding the longer-range hunger development projects until the balance on hand is built up again. We can now respond only to life threatening situations," he said.

David Lockard, coordinator of the conference and director of the Christian Life Commission's program of hunger education and action, said although Southern Baptists are to be commended for this increase in giving, "This is an appropriate time, shortly before the Oct. 9 World Hunger Day observance, for us to prepare to move up to a new level of concern, compassion, and commitment in responding to the challenge of world hunger."

In another conference session, Nathan Porter, hunger consultant for the Home Mission Board, said Southern Baptists have been slow to respond to the hunger problem in the United States often because of misunderstanding, prejudice and lack of information.

"The main cause of hunger in America is poverty," Porter said. "It is a problem of nutrition. Many people do not have the money to buy the food their families and their children need," he said.

"The economic depression and budget cuts in social services to the poor have helped the poverty level to reach alarming proportions in the United States. Thirty-five million people in America live below the poverty level and another 35 million are considered near poor or just above the poverty line," he said.

"In churches and food centers where Southern Baptists give emergency food relief, we now see the new poor, these formerly middle-class Americans who stand silent and ashamed, not knowing where else to go and waiting to receive a gift of food because they don't want their kids to go hungry."

Porter said Southern Baptists must break down prejudice and seek up-to-date information on the poor and hungry in America. "Poor people are not lazy men living off welfare," he stressed. "They are hopeless and worried people who are unable to help themselves."

Porter said poverty is not a racial problem but an economic problem which touches people of all races. "Two-thirds of the poor people in the United States are white," he said. "Of course, while only 11 percent of whites are poor, 31 percent of blacks and 26 percent of Hispanics live in poverty."

"The South where Southern Baptists are the strongest has twice the poverty level of the North," he pointed out.

"Our home missionaries report the poor and hungry are young mothers rearing children alone, families of workers who have lost their jobs, young people who lack training and job skills, migrants, seasonal farm workers, documented refugees, the elderly, handicapped and native Americans," he said. "Two of three adults in the United States who are poor are women."

"We've been so busy on our expressways of life we've never taken an exit to become involved and to relate to the poor and hungry people," Porter said. "The only contact most people have with the poor is at the grocery store and they exaggerate the bad stories about the poor and food stamps."

Porter said Southern Baptists designated only about \$7,000 for domestic hunger in 1979 but gifts have grown to \$250,000 in 1982. "These funds are distributed by missionaries almost exclusively for emergency food relief," he said.

Patsy Ayers, a member of First Baptist Church in San Antonio, Texas, a Christian Life Commission member and a hunger activist, told participants Southern Baptists need to make hunger awareness come alive in the churches.

"We can do this through sermons on world hunger, special music and testimonies, and through the use of curriculum and study materials," she said. "If we get involved in hunger education, we will have a changed attitude."

Ayers said we often have an animosity toward the poor. "A sign of moral depravity used to be slothfulness, but we have shifted this to say that poverty is a sign of moral depravity."

Ayers said Southern Baptists need to watch their motivation in helping the poor and hungry and not help just to alleviate their own guilt. "We need to think of our hungry brothers and sisters as creations of Christ," she said.

"If we are going to do something to feed the hungry in the name of Jesus Christ, it had better be good--not slipshod," she said. "What we do need is to be realistic but we can also stir the imaginations of our people to do things (to feed the hungry) we have never dreamed of," she said. "Greater than any gift we give to the hungry is the gift of hope as we give them the whole gospel," she said.