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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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February 27, 1985

85-21

Cronkite, Hatfield Honored  
During Abe Lincoln Awards

By Greg Warner

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP)—Famed CBS Newsmen Walter Cronkite and Sen. Mark O. Hatfield (R-Ore.) received special honors from the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission Feb. 21 as part of the agency's annual Abe Lincoln Awards.

Cronkite, consistently selected as one of the most trusted public figures in the United States when he anchored the daily evening news for CBS, received the Distinguished Communications Medal for his "dedication to truth and freedom of expression."

Because Cronkite was unable to attend, CBS News colleague Charles Kuralt accepted the award for Cronkite and delivered the keynote address for the event.

Kuralt praised Cronkite's commitment to objective reporting. That notion, he said, has suffered under the influence of "the new journalism," which encourages reporters to express a point of view in their stories.

Objective reporting requires humility, persistence and honesty, said Kuralt, who has spent 28 years with CBS news. "A good reporter must come to a story with an honest heart. He must tell it as it is and never as he wishes it to be."

Hatfield was honored with the Christian Service Award for his "commitment to peace and humanitarian causes." He, too, was unable to attend the ceremony because of a key Senate vote.

His wife, Antoinette, accepted his award.

Also honored in the awards were eight local broadcasters who had distinguished themselves for their public service efforts.

Gaylon Christie, owner and general manager of KOOV-FM, Copperas Cove, Texas, and Stan Cramer, community affairs director for KCTV-TV, Fairway, Kan., each won Abe Lincoln Awards, top competitive honors.

Christie was chosen for his volunteer work with the Bell County Rehabilitation Center for crippled and abused children. Cramer was cited for coordinating his station's consumer help service, which investigates more than 300 complaints per month.

Other finalists in the competition, who each received Abe Lincoln Merit Awards during the ceremony, are: Rena Blumberg, WWWE-AM and WDOK-FM, Cleveland; Jerry Dahmen, KXRB-AM and KIOV-FM, Sioux Falls, S.D.; Lloyd Kaiser, WOED-TV, Pittsburgh; Ronald Livengood, WKEA-AM-FM, Scottsboro, Ala.; James Rupp, WCCO-TV, Minneapolis, and Nina Trasoff, KGUN-TV, Tucson, Ariz.

In his speech, Kuralt said, the Abe Lincoln Awards "lend something of nobility to the work we are in. While there are a lot of awards in broadcasting, this is one we can all support. You can make a perfectly good living in broadcasting without a thought to serving your community, but what a waste of potential."

The Abe Lincoln Awards were established by the Radio and Television Commission in 1970 to recognize the contributions local broadcasters make to their communities. The competition is judged by a panel of the broadcasters' peers on the basis of professionally accepted standards.

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The commission also uses the annual occasion to cite lifetime achievements in public life and communications. Cronkite and Hatfield join former winners which include Billy Graham, Walt Disney, Jimmy Carter and others.

Cronkite's award, presented to Kuralt by Commission President Jimmy R. Allen, recognized the veteran journalist for "telling the truth as clearly and succinctly as possible so American viewers could have a sense of confidence even in times of uncertainty."

Now a special correspondent for CBS, Cronkite was for 19 years anchor and managing editor of "CBS Evening News" until his semi-retirement in 1981.

In presenting the Christian Service Award, Allen praised Hatfield for his "ethical responsibility and personal religious convictions in the context of national politics."

In his 18 years in the Senate, Hatfield often has departed from his conservative Republican colleagues on issues of arms control and defense spending. He has led Congressional battles against world hunger and for a freeze on nuclear weapons while stressing the importance of human rights in American foreign policy.

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(BP) photo mailed to state Baptist newspapers by RTVC.

Bisexual School Teacher  
Loses High Court Appeal

By Stan Hastey

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WASHINGTON (BP)--A bisexual public school teacher in Ohio has failed to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to review her dismissal more than 10 years ago as a high school guidance counselor.

Marjorie H. Rowland was fired by the Mad River Local School District board in December, 1974 after telling her secretary and some fellow teachers she is bisexual. After Rowland took the school district to court, a jury ruled the firing was based solely on her admission of bisexuality and found that her mention of sexual preference to fellow employees did not "in any way interfere with the proper performance of (her) duties or with the regular operation of the school generally."

The trial judge ruled accordingly that Rowland was entitled to be reinstated and awarded damages. But the Sixth U.S. Court of Appeals reversed the jury and judge, concluding that while her admission had not interfered with her job performance, the school board was entitled under the Constitution to dismiss Rowland "for talking about it." Rowland then appealed to the Supreme Court.

Two high court justices, William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall, dissented from the majority's refusal to schedule the case for arguments and decision, saying it "starkly presents issues of individual constitutional rights that have... 'swirled nationwide for many years.'" Brennan, who wrote the dissent, accused the appeals court of reversing the jury and judge "based on a crabbed reading" of Supreme Court precedents, and suggested the lower panel sought "to evade the central question: May a State dismiss a public employee based on her bisexual status alone?"

As is customary, the justices who voted not to hear the case gave no reasons for the action. Four of the nine high court members must agree to grant a hearing before any case is heard. (84-532, Rowland v. Mad River Local School District)

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Understanding Of Doctrine  
Important To Baptist Life

By Gail Rothwell

Baptist Press  
2/27/85

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)--A better understanding of the history and heritage of Southern Baptists would lessen the theological debates which plague the Southern Baptist Convention, participants attending a doctrine study conference in Nashville, Tenn., were told.

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"The devil employs theological differences to intercept the gospel," Franklin Paschall, retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Nashville, told participants. "Every day Southern Baptists are letting the devil attempt to divide us by throwing up theological issues. Instead, we should be staying on the subject of the one gospel, the one savior."

Paschall led a two-day conference on this year's church training study on the doctrine of Christ. Doctrine Study Week will be observed April 22-26 in Southern Baptist churches. He challenged participants to devote their lives to the discovery and proclamation of the truths of the Bible.

Referring to the current debate in the SBC, Paschall said, "We need to follow the example of Jesus Christ--loving one another, praying for one another, serving one another--even if it involves making some personal sacrifices.

He encouraged conferees to "let God speak to individuals through the Scripture. I'll try not to impose my views on you."

Paschall explained by studying doctrine Southern Baptists can gain a greater insight into who they are and what they believe. "It is especially important to study the doctrines pertaining to Christ because he is the core around which all other things revolve," he said.

In another session, Art Criscoe, manager, management support section, church training department, said a basic understanding of the doctrine of Christ will help Christians to verbalize their faith.

Explaining the church needs to teach and train each new generation of Christians, Criscoe said, "For too long churches have not been emphasizing the importance of doctrine study. We have problems in our churches and denomination because we have too many doctrinally illiterate Christians. Doctrine study provides a good foundation for spiritual growth."

Criscoe said this year's doctrine study book, *The Doctrine of Christ*, was written by Frank Stagg, professor emeritus, New Testament interpretation, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Ky.

Topics covered in the book include messianic expectations, Christ and Christians, the identity of Christ, the authority of Christ and the salvation of Christ.

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Horse Industry Experts  
Assess Economic Status

Baptist Press  
2/27/85

PHILADELPHIA (BP)--"Ninety percent of all thoroughbred racing operations are losing propositions," a thoroughbred breeding expert told participants at the 1985 Horse Seminar held in Philadelphia.

People who enter the racing business "go into it for the fun and excitement," said Kerry Fitzpatrick, president of International Thoroughbred Breeders, Inc., one of the world's largest and most diversified thoroughbred operations.

"You're not going to make any money racing horses unless you can catch lightning in a bottle," Fitzpatrick said. "You'll lose money, and in the process get some tax advantages and deferrals."

Even commercial breeders, who made money in the past, have fallen on hard times, he noted. Today, he said, thoroughbred breeders "have far better than a 50 percent chance of losing money."

Pointing out publicity has focused primarily on the few yearlings which have sold for more than \$1 million, Fitzpatrick said a more realistic picture of the breeding industry is reflected by the median sales price for thoroughbred yearlings which has plunged by about 50 percent in just two years.

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Fitzpatrick's assessment of the racing industry differed dramatically from much of the testimony given by industry spokesmen at hearings held during the past year by legislatures in several states. Pari-mutuel legislation is currently under consideration in Mississippi, Tennessee and Texas.

One session in the day-long seminar advised participants on how to convince the Internal Revenue Service money spent on horse breeding and racing is actually business and not just a hobby. Currently, dramatic tax advantages are available to the horse operator who convinces the IRS he is operating a business.

One test which the IRS employs is the "Seven Year Presumption Rule." If a horse operation shows a profit twice in seven years, it is presumed to be a business. For all activities other than horse racing and breeding, however, the period is five years.

Stan Bergstein, executive vice-president of the Harness Tracks of America, challenged racing industry leaders to work together to lobby state legislatures for additional tax relief, citing results in New Jersey and Maryland.

Bergstein noted many tracks need to be renovated in order to attract customers but lack the funds through normal operation to carry out such projects. "Tax relief," he emphasized, "is the key to track renovation."

Another topic at the seminar focused on the emergence of syndicates for racing and breeding. Industry leaders hope the infusion of new capital will bring the benefit of a broader base of political support for horse industry positions.

The capital infusion from syndications already has given some stability to the upper echelons of the breeding industry. Spendthrift Farms of Kentucky, for example, has generated over \$30 million in capital for its operations through stock syndications.

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Baptist Groups Give  
Mardi Gras Witness

By Oscar Hoffmeyer Jr.

Baptist Press  
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NEW ORLEANS (BP)—Most Mardi Gras visitors want to party. But this year more than 40 Baptists from 10 churches in five states came to preach.

Their home was the Vieux Carre Baptist Church, the only non-Catholic house of worship in the French Quarter, according to Roy Humphrey, pastor for the past 10 years.

The Mardi Gras party, which lasts for a couple of weeks and ends the night before the Lenten season begins, is not the most ideal time to witness as some of the Baptists noted. But in spite of the party atmosphere Humphrey said the groups, all laymen except one pastor and an associate pastor, reported 46 professions of faith and distribution of 28,000 tracts.

Jay Fuslier, Brotherhood director at Olivet Baptist Church, Sulpher, La., who spends some of his time at the corner of Canal and Dauphine streets, said, "Most people will take a tract but may not be interested in talking. But two did ask directions to the church and one family said they were church members."

One merchant told one of the Baptist groups, "This is my corner. Get off my business area."

David Cobb, associate pastor at Wedgewood Baptist Church, Fort Worth, Texas, said as they handed a young man a tract and said, "Jesus loves you," he stopped. "Do you know what sin is?" they asked. "Yeah," he replied. "I've stolen and lied."

"You admit you're a sinner?"

"Yeah."

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After sharing the gospel with him he was asked if someone were to show him how to receive Christ, would he. "Yeah," he replied. After praying to receive Christ he took a New Testament to study. His name and Houston address will be sent to a pastor for followup.

Most of the men have participated in non-acquaintance witnessing at home. Fuslier said there was little difference between response in New Orleans and Sulpher.

Cobb, who has been coming to Vieux Carre Baptist Church during Mardi Gras for witnessing for five years, said one difference is that in Fort Worth they meet mostly local people.

"In New Orleans people are from all over the nation and many of them just want to get lost in the crowd. But every time I've come to New Orleans I have been changed when I realize how horrible sin is," he explained.

The Baptist men came for various reasons.

Roger Maddox, a Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student from Sayre, Okla., said he wanted to "learn the power of God is witnessing on the street." Some said they wanted the experience in order to become more effective back home.

Humphrey counseled the men for effective non-acquaintance witnessing before the men went to the streets. Among the suggestions:

1) Realize you are part of God's program, not God's program. There are a lot of answers you don't know. 2) You're not on the judgement team. It's hard not to judge some people. You'll find three kinds—those who love Jesus, those who do not but will listen and those who do not and are not interested, and 3) We are in God's sales department. It is our job to tell about God's love.

He counseled those interested in non-acquaintance witnessing to "not stay out more than a couple of hours because it is spiritually draining. Come back for Bible study and reflection before going out again."

Humphrey, who ran away from home at the age of 15 and lived on New Orleans' streets before becoming a Christian, has set a goal of a continuing ministry in the Quarter instead of just during Mardi Gras.

Fuslier said he feels participation at other times of the year will be beneficial for youth groups and others. The church, located at 711 Dauphine Street, a block from Bourbon Street, has newly renovated sleeping and eating facilities for more than 55 persons and can be a center for their activities.

During Mardi Gras, Vernal and Joy Soileau from Opelousas, La., volunteered their time to prepare meals and assist with schedules.

Although the church, which is an autonomous congregation, provides operation expenses, Humphrey reported when the offering plate was passed the Sunday before Mardi Gras it contained \$1000 more than usual.

"Our small congregation was about the same people so I assume the additional offering came from our guests who were sharing the gospel in New Orleans. And Nolan Johnston, director of missions, sent \$500 from the New Orleans Association and a \$300 check was received from the Louisiana Baptist evangelism office," Humphrey reported.

The church, all 19 members, has commitments from 17 groups next summer, including 13 from Louisiana, to share in the ministry to shop owners, residents and guests of the Vieux Carre, when the party is not so large.



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