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90-7

High court limits ordinance
regulating adult businesses

By Kathy Palen

N-BJC

WASHINGTON (BP)--The U.S. Supreme Court has struck down a Dallas ordinance that required all sexually oriented businesses to obtain operating licenses.

In an opinion issued Jan. 10, the high court held the city's licensing scheme to be unconstitutional because it failed to provide adequate procedural safeguards to protect against prior restraint of speech.

Six of the nine justices said the ordinance violated the First Amendment because it did not require that health and fire inspections necessary for licensing be performed within a specific time period or provide for prompt judicial review if a license was denied.

"Like a censorship system, a licensing scheme creates the possibility that constitutionally protected speech will be suppressed where there are inadequate procedural safeguards to ensure prompt issuance of the license," said Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. "A scheme that fails to set reasonable time limits on the decisionmaker creates the risk of indefinitely suppressing permissible speech."

Joining O'Connor, who wrote for the court, were Justices Anthony M. Kennedy and John Paul Stevens. Justices Harry A. Blackmun, William J. Brennan Jr. and Thurgood Marshall concurred with the judgment.

But three justices dissented, saying they found the ordinance to be constitutional.

"The Dallas ordinance is in many respects analogous to regulations requiring parade or demonstration permits and imposing conditions on such permits," wrote Justice Byron R. White, who was joined by Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist. "Such regulations have generally been treated as time, place and manner restrictions and have been upheld if they are content neutral, serve a substantial governmental interest and leave open alternative avenues of communication."

Justice Antonin Scalia went further to say that not only would he uphold the Dallas licensing scheme but he also would uphold a city ordinance that banned sexually oriented businesses altogether.

He advocated a test that would consider the concentration of sexually oriented works or performances rather than the "rigid test for obscenity that we apply to the determination whether a particular book, film or performance can be banned."

In FW/PBS Inc. v. Dallas, the court did uphold a separate portion of the city ordinance that prohibits motels from renting rooms for less than 10 hours. The justices unanimously agreed that the restriction does not place an "unconstitutional burden on the right to freedom of association."

Writers begin work on curriculum
to boost Southern Baptist growth

By Frank Wm. White

N-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--Writers have begun work on improved Sunday school curriculum that leaders of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board hope will boost evangelistic and ministry efforts and lead to more creative Bible study.

In writers conferences for various age groups and curriculum lines, writers received guidelines for the improved Sunday school curriculum to be introduced in the churches in October 1991.

Board President Lloyd Elder challenged writers for adult materials in the Convention Uniform and Bible Book series to become part of a grand enterprise for reaching people.

"When you think about the life of Southern Baptists, there is a heartache that we are not doing a better job of reaching people and growing," Elder said.

Increased evangelism focus and application of Bible materials comprise one of the four major features of the curriculum improvements.

The improvements are the result of five years of study and evaluation to provide curriculum that meets current needs of Southern Baptist churches.

Other features of the improvements are an increased emphasis on the Bible, improved ease of use and more attractive presentation.

With the improvements, writers will have a key role in helping churches become more evangelistic and experience growth, said Harry Piland, director of the Sunday school division.

Piland noted Southern Baptist churches have reached a plateau in Sunday school enrollment growth and baptisms.

"Warmth and vitality are needed to enliven churches through Bible study," Piland said.

The Life and Work Series will enter its second quarter-century with the improvements, and the changes will be significant, said Mike Fink, manager of the adult Life and Work/Vacation Bible School curriculum section.

Life and Work materials will include a daily Bible study guide related to the following Sunday's session that will encourage class members to prepare for Sunday school and read their Bibles, Fink said.

"We want people to study their lessons," said Fink. "We want to help provide discipline to do Bible study every day."

Fink encouraged writers to use creative, lively writing to illustrate ideas effectively.

He challenged writers to rely on their convictions. "In our desire to maintain balance, we sometimes appear not to have any strong conviction. Write out of your own deep personal convictions about the Bible truths," he said.

One of the most visible changes in curriculum materials will be a new notebook for youth called "Wordworks." While the notebook is an optional supplementary product, it offers a place for youth to organize Bible study helps, said Rusty Gilbert, an editor of youth Sunday school materials.

The materials will help guide youth in evangelistic outreach and ministry to their friends, Gilbert said.

Children's materials will focus on building foundations that nurture an understanding of faith, trust and unconditional love, said Muriel Blackwell, director of the Sunday school preschool-children's department.

"You cannot educate a child into the kingdom of God, but you can nurture a child so that when the Holy Spirit leads toward a salvation experience, it will be a valid experience," Blackwell said. "We are trying to give teachers more help in knowing how to deal with children's questions about God and salvation."

A focus on the Bible also is highlighted in preschool materials.

"The changes make the Bible more visible through Bible thought, stories and Bible verses," said Sheri Babb, a writer of preschool materials from Shawnee, Okla.

Reviewing designs for the improved preschool materials, writers noted that the organization of the material made the Bible basis for the material more evident.

Preschool curriculum writers also noted improved design of step-by-step procedures to make preparation easier for teachers.

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CLC complaint to ABC
produces response

N- (O)
(CLC)

Baptist Press
1/15/90

NASHVILLE (BP)--ABC-TV has agreed to instruct its employees who take calls from the public to refrain from trying to antagonize critics who object to homosexual themes in the network's programming.

In recent weeks, a Southern Baptist pastor in Arkansas and a Southern Baptist director of missions in Oklahoma tried to phone the network to complain about a homosexual theme on the network's show "thirtysomething" and encountered hostile responses from an ABC employee who identified himself only as an avowed homosexual, the callers said.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, "thirtysomething" portrayed two male homosexuals in bed.

"When I kept trying to voice my concern about the show, this man kept saying, 'I am a homosexual,'" said Bob Richardson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Adkins, Ark.

Ernest Perkins, director of missions for Capitol Baptist Association in Oklahoma City, said he was told by the person who answered the phone at ABC in New York: "I am a homosexual. What do you think about that?"

Louis Moore, associate director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission, complained to ABC on January 12 about the treatment of the pastor and director of missions. He said he received assurances from network spokesman Ed Centron that such responses by ABC employees would be stopped.

"I will oblige you," Centron told Moore. "No employee of ours ought to make a caller feel uncomfortable. As soon as I hang up this phone, I will be in front of my entire staff to instruct them that this must not happen again."

Centron said he has a large number of employees who take the calls from the public, and he did not know who took the Baptists' calls, Moore said.

The Christian Life Commission is leading a national effort to get Southern Baptists to phone ABC and complain about the "thirtysomething" show. The calls are being made to ABC in New York at (212) 456-7777.

ABC is receiving 25 to 30 phone calls a day from critics of the show, Centron said.

The network is sensitive to the demands of the public, he added, noting, the calls are being tabulated and the results will be presented to ABC's management.

Both Richardson and Perkins said that because of the bias they encountered, they are concerned that the results will not be tabulated correctly. Centron said they would be.

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Drummond back
at Southeastern

N-10
(SEBTS)

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Lewis A. Drummond, president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, is back on the job at the Wake Forest, N.C., school following cancer surgery Dec. 7.

Drummond underwent what his family described as "extensive colon cancer surgery" at Duke University Medical Center in Durham, N.C. Doctors said most people who have this kind of surgery require about eight weeks of recuperation before returning to work, but they believe because of his stamina and physical condition Drummond is making a faster-than-expected recovery.

Drummond began dictating work and answering correspondence before leaving the hospital. Doctors had him walking in the halls two days after the surgery. He was released in time to be home for the Christmas holidays, after being hospitalized for nine days.

Drummond began work almost immediately after the holidays. Jan. 2, he was in his office for about two hours. He now is spending several hours per day in the office, handling correspondence and attending to administrative responsibilities.

"I started working in my office the first week of January. I feel very, very good. My general health and stamina are returning rapidly. I feel great. I'm looking forward to a rapid recovery, complete in every sense," Drummond said.

When asked about his full recovery, Drummond said: "I feel I should be back up close to 100 percent by the end of the month. By then I should be able to spend the whole day in the office. I'm easing slowly into speaking engagements. I have a speaking engagement at the state evangelism conference in Arkansas at the end of January that I intend to keep."

Commenting about his continued recovery, Drummond said, "I'd like people to continue to pray and trust the Lord to give complete restoration."

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Joanna Pinneo to join staff
of U.S. News & World Report

N-FMB

Baptist Press
1/15/90

RICHMOND, Va. (BP)--Photographer Joanna Pinneo, who has traveled the world recording through pictures the story of Southern Baptist missionaries and the people they serve, will join the photographic staff of U.S. News and World Report, the weekly newsmagazine.

Pinneo, 35, began work at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board as a photo lab technician in April 1978. Two years later, she became a staff photographer and began handling overseas coverage assignments for The Commission -- the board's magazine -- and Baptist Press. She became a special assignment photographer in 1984.

The Associated Press nominated Pinneo for a Pulitzer Prize in 1986 for her photograph of an injured child separated from his parents by the 1985 volcano mud slide in Armero, Colombia.

She won third-place recognition as magazine photographer of the year in the 1987 Pictures of the Year Competition, sponsored in part by the National Press Photographers Association. Also in that contest, she received awards of excellence for profiles of the mud slide victim in Colombia and a family living on the streets of Calcutta, India. She also has received numerous photo awards from the Baptist Public Relations Association, the Religious Public Relations Council and other associations of media professionals.

Her new job begins after her current contract with the Foreign Mission Board expires in late March. Since March 1989, she has worked with the board on a contract basis in addition to handling other photo assignments for various publications as a free-lance photographer.

Pinneo has spent most of her life in Richmond, Va. She received the bachelor of arts degree from Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg, Va., in 1976. She also attended Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and Woodland School of Photography in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

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

Churches ignoring singles,
missing ministry, leader says

By Terri Lackey

N-SSB

NASHVILLE (BP)--Church leaders who view their workplace as a business where an investment demands a return neglect single adults for fear they are too high a risk, a leader in the field said.

Other churches shy away from a single-adult program because they feel they will have to compromise biblical teachings to reach them.

And still others just simply do not understand what it would take to start a single-adult program and keep it going, said Ken Jordan, manager of the senior- and single-adult section of the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

"Some churches do not minister to single adults because of what they perceive as a high cost factor," said Jordan. "Those who tend to view their church as a business or an investment on which to make a return believe a single-adult ministry won't pay for itself."

Many church leaders feel single adults have nothing to offer the congregation, he noted.

"I can't think of anything they couldn't do," Jordan responded when asked what role a single adult could play in the church. "My hunch is many churches feel single adults are not settled down enough or would not be committed enough, but that is just not an accurate perception of who single adults are."

With a United States population of 65 million single adults, Southern Baptists virtually are ignoring this untapped reservoir of never-married, widowed and divorced people, Jordan said.

According to the board's research services department, 38.2 million single adults never have been married, 13.2 million are widowed and 13.6 million are divorced.

Each of these groups represents a unique ministry opportunity for churches, Jordan said.

Some churches fear a ministry with singles might lead to compromising biblical teachings, he noted. They cite divorce as one issue of concern.

"Many churches, and I hope they are in the minority, fear the divorce issue. They see ministry to the divorced as if they are supporting divorce or rewarding divorce instead of viewing it as a healing ministry of the church," he said.

"I think another reason churches do not start single-adult programs has to do with fear -- a fear of the unknown. It is also a misunderstanding of the purpose of a single-adult ministry.

"There is a lot of ignorance or misinformation about stereotypical singles in our society, and a lot of churches operate out of those stereotypes."

Many churches believe the single adult joins a church as a substitute for a "lonely hearts club where they can meet other people," Jordan added. "What they should realize is that the church could minister to the single adults' emotional, physical and spiritual needs and give them the opportunity to share and grow."

The result of these attitudes in churches, he said, is too few churches serving unmarried people and a small number of full-time single adult ministers.

Slightly more than 1 percent, or 450 of 38,000, Southern Baptist churches employ single-adult ministers, and many of those people are fulfilling dual roles on the church staff, said Tim Cleary, single-adult consultant in the family ministry department.

The number of Southern Baptist churches with a single-adult program is anybody's guess, said Cliff Allbritton, editor of "Christian Single" magazine published by the family ministry department. "The best count we have (on the number of Southern Baptist single-adult programs) is how many churches get our magazine" -- about 10,000, he said.

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"One-third of the adults in the United States are single adults," Jordan said. "Churches entering the '90s really need to get in touch with the diversity of family configurations.

"If we want to carry out our Bold Mission Thrust goal (to reach all the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ by the year 2000), then we need to make sure we are not missing this huge segment of our society."

The board's family ministry department in conjunction with the Sunday school division, has announced a national teleconference, "Building an Effective Single-Adult Ministry," to be telecast live on the BTN network Sunday, April 1, at 4 p.m. CST.

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