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-- BAPTIST PRESS

News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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March 23, 1993

HOUSTON -- SBC annual meeting program.
TEXAS -- Baylor regents' vote cancels nude art class.
NASHVILLE -- Stewardship Commission adopts budget reduction of 11 percent.
MOSCOW -- Russian Baptists remain neutral in fight for control.
KENTUCKY -- Seminary launches advanced M.Div.
NEW ORLEANS -- New Orleans Seminary marks 75th anniversary in 1992-93; photos.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

Annual Meeting

June 15-17, 1993

George R. Brown Convention Center

Houston

Theme: " ... For Such a Time as This."

Scripture: Esther 4:14

Tuesday morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration -- Texas All State Youth Choir, Loyd Hawthorne, director, Hardin Simmons University, Abilene, Texas, director
- 8:30 Call to Order
Congregational Singing -- Ragan M. Vandegriff, III, convention music director, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Orlando, Fla.; Gary Moore, music associate, minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Houston; Gerald Ray, music associate, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Houston
- 8:35 Prayer -- Joe Chambers, pastor, Lochwood Baptist Church, Lochwood, Colo.
Registration Report and Constitution of Convention -- Lee Porter, SBC registration secretary, associate pastor, St. Andrew Baptist Church, Panama City, Fla.
- 8:40 Committee on Order of Business (First Report) -- Fred Powell, chairman, senior associate pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
- 8:45 Welcome -- Bob Lanier, mayor, Houston; Mary Lou Retton-Kelly and Shannon Kelly, former Olympic gymnastics gold medalist and husband, Houston
- 8:50 Response -- Doug Hodo, president, Houston Baptist University
- 9:00 Crossover Houston -- Jay Strack, SBC first vice president, evangelist, Dallas
- 9:05 Denominational Press Report -- Herb Hollinger, vice president for convention news, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville
- 9:15 Theme Devotion -- "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Holy Priesthood, Charles B. Fuller, pastor, First Baptist Church, Roanoke, Va.
- 9:30 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
- 9:50 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) -- Morris H. Chapman, president, SBC Executive Committee, Nashville

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- 10:45 Congregational Singing -- Gary Moore
 10:50 Music -- Caedmon's Call, Danielle Glen, vocalist, Houston; Cari Harris, vocalist, Houston; Cliff Young, vocalist, Houston
 11:00 Introduction of President -- Ed Young, pastor, Fellowship of Las Colinas Church, Irving, Texas
 11:05 President's Address -- Edwin Young, SBC president, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
 11:45 Benediction -- Ben B. Young, singles minister, Second Baptist Church, Houston

Tuesday afternoon

- 1:00 Music for Inspiration -- William Hanson, organist, Dallas; Beverly Terrell, vocalist, Dallas; T. Bob Davis, pianist, Dallas; Jack Price, music evangelist, Dallas; Jenni Till, vocalist, Dallas; Alan Green, vocalist, Houston
 1:45 Congregational Singing -- Ragan Vandegriff
 Prayer -- Robert L. Lentz, pastor, Mt. Tabor Baptist Church, Clemson, S.C.
 1:50 Southern Baptist Foundation Report -- Hollis E. Johnson III, president, Nashville
 2:00 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (second report) -- Fred Powell
 2:10 Theme Devotion -- "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Spirit of Cooperation, Adrian Rogers, pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.
 2:25 Congregational Singing -- Lee Roy and Hannah Till, musicians, Dallas; Ragan Vandegriff
 2:30 Election of Officers (First)
 2:45 Committee on Nominations Report -- Joseph W. Atchison, chairman, director of missions, Rogers, Ark.
 3:00 Executive Committee Report (Part 1) -- Morris H. Chapman
 3:45 Introduction of Fraternal Representatives
 3:50 Messenger Information Survey -- Mike Arrington, vice president, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville
 3:55 Music -- Wingspread Trio, Rodney and Myrna Salmon, minister of music and wife, First Baptist Church, Moore Okla.; Shery Boyles, vocalist, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.
 4:05 Business
 Committee on Order of Business (Third Report) -- Fred Powell
 4:10 Committee on Committees Report
 4:25 Introduction of Business and Resolutions
 4:45 Election of Officers (Second)
 5:00 Benediction -- Robert Sorrell, associate pastor, Bellevue Baptist Church, Cordova, Tenn.

Tuesday evening

- 6:10 Music for Inspiration -- United Colors of Christ Choir, directed by: William Love, Houston; TomSita Lewis, Houston; Bobbie Chun, Houston; George Guel, Houston; Second Voice-Vocal Ensemble, Houston
 6:40 Congregational Singing -- Matt Marsh, associate minister of music, Second Baptist Church, Houston
 Prayer -- Danny Sotelo, pastor, El Encino Community Church, Fresno, Calif.
 6:45 Brotherhood Commission Report -- James D. Williams, president, Memphis, Tenn.
 6:55 Congregational Singing -- William Love
 7:00 Election of Officers (Third)
 7:10 Seminaries -- Challenge to Biblical Preparation

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- 7:40 Seminary Invitation -- Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.
- 7:45 Congregational Singing -- Jack Price, Garland, Texas
- 7:50 Sunday School Board Report -- James T. Draper Jr., president, Nashville
- 8:00 Sunday School/Discipleship Presentation -- "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Faithfulness to the Word of God
- 8:50 Discipleship Commitment Invitation
- 9:00 Benediction -- Rick Ray, minister of education, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.

Wednesday morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration -- Prestonwood Baptist Church Choir, Todd Bell, minister of music, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas, director
- 8:30 Congregational Singing -- Todd Bell
- 8:35 Woman's Missionary Union Report -- Dellanna W. O'Brien, executive director, Birmingham, Ala.
- 8:45 Education Commission Report -- Arthur L. Walker Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 8:55 Doctrinal Devotion -- "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Freedom, Richard D. Land, executive director, SBC Christian Life Commission, Nashville
- 9:10 Congregational Singing -- Tom Mosely, minister of music, Tallowood Baptist Church, Houston
- 9:15 Bold Mission Thrust Report -- Morris H. Chapman
- 9:25 Election of Officers (Fourth)
- 9:30 Introduction of Past Presidents
- 9:40 Seminary Reports -- William O. Crews, president, Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif.; Milton Ferguson, president, Midwestern Seminary, Kansas City, Mo.; Landrum P. Leavell II, president, New Orleans Seminary; Paige Patterson, president, Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C.; Roy L. Honeycutt, president, Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; Russell Dilday, president, Southwestern Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas
- 9:50 Seminary Presentation
- 10:15 Congregational Singing -- Fred McNabb, minister of music, First Baptist Church, Dallas
- 10:20 Committee on Order of Business (Fourth Report) -- Fred Powell
- 10:25 Report and Recommendation on Freemasonry -- Larry Lewis, president, Home Mission Board, Atlanta
- 10:45 Miscellaneous Business
- 11:05 Committee on Resolutions (First Report)
- 11:20 Election of Officers (Fifth)
- 11:25 Music -- Prestonwood Baptist Church Choir
- 11:30 Convention Sermon -- Jack N. Graham, pastor, Prestonwood Baptist Church, Dallas
- 12:00 Benediction -- Charles Germany, layman, Atlanta

No Wednesday afternoon sessionWednesday evening

- 6:15 Music for Inspiration -- Massed choirs of Union Baptist Association, Texas
- 6:35 Congregational Singing -- Gary Moore
- 6:40 Business
- Committee on Order of Business (Fifth Report) -- Steve Cookingham, member of Committee on Order of Business, Wichita Falls, Texas
- Election of Convention Sermon Preacher, Alternate, and Music Director 1994

- Denominational Calendar Report -- V.M. Piland, chairman, First Baptist Church, Tulsa, Okla.
- 6:45 Introduction of Newly Elected SBC Officers
- 6:50 Congregational Singing -- Ragan Vandegriff
- 6:55 Home Mission Board Report -- Larry Lewis
- 7:05 Foreign Mission Board Report -- President
- 7:15 Congregational Singing -- Gerald Ray
- 7:20 World Missions Presentation -- "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Missionary Zeal
- 8:50 Missions Commitment Invitation
- 9:00 Benediction -- Charles Tope, retired foreign missionary, Oklahoma City

Thursday morning

- 8:15 Music for Inspiration -- Champion Forest Baptist Church Choir, Mike Burt, director, minister of music, Houston
- 8:35 Congregational Singing -- Mike Burt
- 8:40 American Bible Society Report -- Fred A. Allen, church relations director, New York
- 8:50 Commission on the American Baptist Seminary Report -- Arthur L. Walker Jr., secretary-treasurer
Baptist World Alliance Report -- Denton Lotz, general secretary, McLean, Va.
- 9:10 Stewardship Commission Report -- A.R. Fagan, president, Nashville
- 9:20 Introduction of Local Arrangements Committee -- Herb Hollinger
- 9:25 Historical Commission Report -- Lynn E. May Jr., executive director, Nashville
- 9:35 Southern Baptist Convention Canada Planning Group Report -- Larry L. Lewis
- 9:45 Theme Devotion -- "For Such a Time as This" We Need: The Church's Moral Witness, Frank D. Pollard, pastor, First Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss.
- 10:00 Christian Life Commission Report -- Richard D. Land
- 10:10 Annuity Board Report -- Paul W. Powell, president, Dallas
- 10:20 Radio & Television Commission Report -- Jack B. Johnson, president, Fort Worth, Texas
- 10:30 Presentation of Outgoing SBC Officers -- Morris H. Chapman
Congregational Singing -- Ragan Vandegriff
- 10:35 Miscellaneous Business
- 10:55 Committee on Resolutions (Final Report)
- 11:15 Music -- Renee McLaurin, soloist, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- 11:25 Message -- Chuck Swindoll, author, radio Bible teacher, pastor, First Evangelical Free Church, Fullerton, Calif.
- 12:00 Benediction -- Jim Headrick, senior associate pastor, Cottage Hill Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala.

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SBC Officers

- President: H. Edwin Young, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
- First Vice President: Joe Aulds, evangelist, Ruston, La.
- Second Vice President: Jay Strack, music evangelist, Dallas
- Recording Secretary: David Atchison, layman, Brentwood, Tenn.
- Registration Secretary: Lee Porter, associate pastor, St. Andrew Baptist Church, Panama City, Fla.
- Treasurer: Morris H. Chapman, president, Executive Committee, Nashville

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Committee on Order of Business

H. Edwin Young, convention president, pastor, Second Baptist Church, Houston
 Ronald K. Edwards, attorney, Greer, S.C.
 Steve Cookingham, banker, Wichita Falls, Texas
 Sandra B. Hodge, homemaker, Princeton, Ky.
 Roy Belcher, pastor, Grant Avenue Baptist Church, Corvallis, Ore.
 Gary Ledbetter, editor, The Indiana Baptist newsjournal, Brownsburg, Ind.
 Fred Powell, chairman, pastor, First Baptist Church, Moore, Okla.

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**Baylor regents' vote
 cancels nude art class**

By Toby Druin

**Baptist Press
 3/23/93**

WACO, Texas (BP)--Bowling to a deluge of complaints from Texas Baptists, including a request from the state convention's executive board, Baylor University's board of regents voted unanimously March 19 to cancel a nude figure drawing class scheduled to be offered this fall.

The regents scrapped the class, previously approved by their academic affairs committee, after the university administration and public relations office and the offices of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and Baptist Standard received an avalanche of phone calls and letters in protest.

The class, to be offered to advanced art and pre-med students, was approved last Nov. 6 by the regents committee but was not revealed until the Baylor student newspaper, The Lariat, released it Feb. 25. A subsequent story in the March 10 Baptist Standard, Texas Baptists' weekly newspaper, brought the storm of protest.

On March 16, three days before the regents' spring meeting, the Texas Baptist executive board, overwhelmingly passed a motion asking the Baylor board to consider the "views and convictions" of Texas Baptists in their review of the class and in future decisions in light of the university's "expressed intent ... to be a major university distinctively Christian and unapologetically Baptist."

Baylor's relationship with the convention and its intention to remain "unapologetically Baptist" were brought into question in September 1990 when the university board changed its charter to end direct control by the convention. A new relationship subsequently was approved between the convention and university last fall which gives the convention direct election of only six of the university's 24 regents.

Baylor administration maintained, however, during the two-year dispute that followed the charter change that the school would remain "Baptist" in spite of the loss of convention control.

Opponents of the charter change and the new relationship contended it would lead to a move by the university away from its Baptist moorings. They and many others renewed the charge when news of the nude figure drawing class broke.

Texas Baptist executive board chairman Levi Price Jr., pastor of First Baptist Church of El Paso, said complaints about the class had come from both sides of the denominational political controversy. Baylor receives almost \$4 million from the state convention Cooperative Program allocations, almost all directed to student aid, but threats were made by many Texas churches to end Cooperative Program support if the class were offered.

Michael E. Bishop, vice president for communications and marketing, announcing the regents' decision to cancel the class, said, "We have heard clearly the voices of Texas Baptists and many others, and we have canceled any plan to offer the proposed course.

"We appreciate the viewpoints that have been expressed concerning this course. Our first commitment is to a Christian ministry in higher education, and we are not going to permit a single course to divide us from our Baptist family nor to distract us from our mission of offering the finest academic programs within a distinctively Christian and Baptist tradition."

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Bishop noted the action by the regents in scrapping the class was the first by the full board on the issue, that the class previously had been approved by a committee of the board.

William M. Pinson Jr., executive director of the Texas Baptist executive board, expressed appreciation for the regents' action.

"I am grateful that the Baylor board in its action was responsive to the concerns expressed by Texas Baptists and the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas," said Pinson. "I pray that as Texas Baptists we can concentrate on making and maturing disciples for the Lord Jesus Christ, working together for the sake of the gospel."

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**Stewardship Commission adopts
budget reduction of 11 percent**

**Baptist Press
3/23/93**

NASHVILLE (BP)--The SBC Stewardship Commission adopted a \$2,097,429 budget for 1993-94, a decrease of \$268,623 from the current budget, at its annual meeting in Nashville Mar. 18-19.

The reduced budget, 11 percent below 1992-93, follows several expense reductions announced earlier by the Stewardship Commission, including a reduction in staff of 3 people and salary cuts. Commissioners voted to delay the effective date of the layoffs until Dec. 31, 1993 instead of June 1.

Roy Moody, director of Stewardship/Cooperative Program for the Kansas/Nebraska Baptist Convention, was re-elected chairman of the commission. Other officers are Robert Ross of Oklahoma, vice chairman; and Levi Parrish of Michigan, secretary. The commission's executive committee includes Samuel Hodges, District of Columbia; Gene Parrott, Colorado; Dore Langley, Louisiana; Moody; Ross; and Parrish with A.R. Fagan, president.

In other action, commissioners heard detailed reports from each of the three program areas and the president; approved revisions in the program statement to be acted upon by the SBC in Houston in June.

Authorized a request for \$525,000 in Cooperative Program funds for 1994-95; appointed a strategy planning committee; and commended Fagan for "his astute financial management."

New commissioners welcomed were Harvey McClellan, Arkansas; Carlisle Driggers, South Carolina; Douglas Pilot, Pennsylvania; and Roy Sutherland, Ohio. Retiring commissioners Cecil Sims, Northwest; Lee Black, New Mexico; Joe Burton, Virginia; and Gary Collins, Missouri were presented plaques in recognition of their service to the commission.

The next meeting of the commission will be Mar. 24-25, 1994 in Nashville.

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**Russian Baptists remain
neutral in fight for control**

**Baptist Press
3/23/93**

MOSCOW, Russia (BP)--Baptists in Russia are staying neutral in a fight for control between President Boris Yeltsin and communist hardliners, according to Southern Baptist missionary George Lozuk.

"We're praying that the Lord will bring about the right thing for Russia, because the needs here are so great," said Lozuk, a veteran missionary. The American-born son of a native Russian, Lozuk transferred to Moscow with his wife, Veda Rae, two years ago to work with Russian Baptists and clear the way for other Southern Baptist personnel.

Three other Southern Baptist missionary couples live in Moscow, and others live in St. Petersburg, Minsk and Kiev. Southern Baptists hope to fill 63 missionary jobs throughout the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

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Russian Baptists "have been through many years of difficulties and hardships, and they're very tough and very hardened to this, and they don't get frustrated easily," Lozuk said. "They look at it and say we'll live through this difficult time, also."

Although political analysts have speculated about possible military action between supporters and antagonists of Yeltsin and his free-market economic reforms, as of March 23 nothing had broken out.

Missionaries continue to go about with business as usual, Lozuk said.

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**Seminary launches
advanced M.Div.**

**Baptist Press
3/23/93**

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Southern Baptist Theological Seminary has instituted an advanced master of divinity degree program for students with undergraduate degrees in religion.

"This program will help religion majors be able to come to seminary and not duplicate work they had in college," said David S. Dockery, dean of the School of Theology at Southern. "It will provide them focus and challenge."

The program will begin this fall and will be open to religion majors who graduated with a "B" average. If accepted, students can complete the master of divinity degree with 75 credit hours instead of the 91 hours ordinarily required for the degree. They will take most first-year courses as a group and will come together for additional courses throughout the program.

For more information, contact the admissions office at (800) 626-5525; In Kentucky call (502) 897-4617.

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**New Orleans Seminary marks
75th anniversary in 1992-93**

By Debbie Moore

**Baptist Press
3/23/93**

NEW ORLEANS (BP)--New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, Southern Baptist's third oldest seminary, marks its 75th anniversary during the 1992-93 academic year.

Voted into being by the Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans in 1917, it was the first theological institution to be created by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Bearing the name Baptist Bible Institute until 1946, the school was actually the fulfillment of a century-old dream of Baptists in the South: in 1817 Cornelius Paulding, a wealthy New Orleans businessman, first proposed the establishment of a missionary training school at the gateway to Latin America.

Many requests were made throughout the nineteenth century for a Baptist school to be established in New Orleans, including a letter in 1849 from Basil Manly Sr., president of the University of Alabama.

A response came with action in 1914 following an impassioned editorial written by Plautus Iberus Lipsey, editor of the Mississippi Baptist newspaper, the Baptist Record.

"A seminary (in New Orleans) would plant the Baptist cause in this city in a way that would immediately command the attention and the respect of all," Lipsey wrote. "It would be planting the siege guns at the enemies' gates. It would rally the Baptists and put heart into them and equip them for their work as nothing else could."

Following unanimous SBC approval in 1917, the Convention instructed both its Home Mission Board and Sunday School Board to cooperate with the Mississippi and Louisiana Baptist state conventions in the establishment of a theological school in New Orleans. The institute opened its first session in October 1918 under the leadership of Byron Hoover DeMent, formerly pastor of First Baptist Church of Greenwood, S.C.

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A native of Silver Springs, Tenn., DeMent served as president of the Baptist Bible Institute from 1917 to 1928.

"The Baptist Bible Institute is pre-eminently a child of providence and prayer," DeMent said at his inauguration. "We believe that its position in the hearts and plans of Southern Baptists will guarantee the support which is necessary to enable it to render an ever increasing service to our Baptist cause and the Kingdom of God throughout the world."

Others who have served as president of the school are William Wistar Hamilton Sr. (1928-42); Duke Kimbrough McCall (1943-46); Roland Quinche Leavell (1946-58); Henry Leo Eddleman (1959-70); and Grady Coulter Cothen (1970-74). The current president, Landrum Pinson Leavell II, nephew of Roland Leavell, is in his 19th year of service at NOBTS.

From its beginning until 1953, the school was located at 1220 Washington Avenue, in the heart of the Garden District of residential New Orleans.

The new campus, at 3939 Gentilly Boulevard in eastern New Orleans, was purchased in 1947. Since that time, the property, once a 75-acre pecan orchard and marsh, has been transformed into a beautiful campus, now including 11 additional acres and over 100 buildings, many showing French Colonial architecture.

The landmark entrance gates and front fence from the Garden District campus now can be seen at the entrance to the quadrangle on the front block of the Gentilly campus.

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(BP) photos (various historical), including a composite of all seven presidents, available upon request from NOBTS office of public relations.

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