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MISSISSIPPI -- Casino site fight looms over proximity to Baptist complex.
NORTH CAROLINA -- Southeastern adds black prof from Gardner-Webb College.
DALLAS -- Texas executive board targets trustees for firing Dilday.
NASHVILLE -- Desert Storm vet uses war stories to reach teens.
NEW MEXICO -- Structure, personnel changes announced at Glorieta center.

**Casino site fight looms over
proximity to Baptist complex**

By William H. Perkins Jr.

PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss. (BP)--Opposing sides will square off before the Mississippi Gaming Commission on Thursday, June 30, in what may be the final battle over a proposed casino within sight of Gulfshore Baptist Assembly in Pass Christian.

Chuck Patton, spokesman for the commission, said the state's three gaming commissioners will take up the proposal during their June 30 meeting, which will begin at 9 a.m. at Treasure Bay Hotel in Biloxi.

Treasure Bay Hotel, part of a casino complex, is the former Royal D'Iberville Hotel on U.S. Highway 90 in Biloxi.

Spectrum, Inc. has proceeded with its bid to build the multi-level, 24-hour gambling facility within 400 yards of the 40-year-old state Baptist campground, despite opposition from the Mississippi Baptist Convention and local landowners who want to maintain the residential nature of the area.

The Harrison County Board of Supervisors, in whose jurisdiction the casino will be located, on Oct. 25, 1993, voted unanimously against endorsing the project. However, the legal power to approve the casino rests solely with the state's gaming commission.

The Christian Action Commission (CAC) of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has circulated a letter around the state urging all Mississippi Baptists to write personal letters to the three gaming commissioners to express their opposition to the project, according to Paul Jones, executive director of the Baptist agency.

"I would describe the response from Baptists as a 'flood.' The CAC letter was distributed in one church during Wednesday night prayer meeting and over 300 people wrote letters before prayer meeting was over," he said.

Many churches are planning to send busloads of their members to the hearing in Biloxi that day, Jones pointed out, and he encourages other churches to send members, too.

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"We shouldn't be intimidated that this hearing is being held at a gambling facility. If we have to go into the 'lion's den' to stop this casino, then that's what we must do," he said.

Jones has repeatedly warned that the casino is not an isolated Gulf coast issue, since Baptists from all areas of the state -- and nation -- utilize Gulfshore's multipurpose facilities. More than 7,000 people attended Christian activities at the multi-million-dollar beachfront facility in the summer of 1993 alone, according to Gulfshore administration figures.

Jones pointed out there is no legal mechanism by which casino approval can be rescinded once the state gaming commission gives the green light.

"We have to win this battle at the state gaming commission level. Gulfshore is the largest religious assembly in the state; are there no areas that can be casino-free?" he asked.

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**Southeastern adds black prof
from Gardner-Webb College By Dwayne Hastings**

**Baptist Press
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WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP)--Logan Carson will join the faculty of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary this fall, becoming the seminary's first full-time African American professor.

Carson has taught at Gardner-Webb College in Boiling Springs, N.C., the past 21 years.

Southeastern President Paige Patterson said Carson "brings a hopefulness and a quiet confident faith that causes things to happen wherever he goes. Dr. Carson has had a fabulous ministry as both pastor and professor."

While without physical sight since birth, Patterson noted Carson "is a man who negotiates life with no bitterness about his handicap and who has overcome literally every obstacle that it might pose to him. He is an encouragement to all of us."

The selection of Dr. Carson is evidence, Patterson said, of the seminary's intent to "provide professors from a relatively broad spectrum of academic and cultural backgrounds."

"Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary has always had an open door policy to students of any cultural or ethnic background," Patterson said. "But it is one thing to say you have an open door, it's quite another thing to have faculty on campus with whom ethnic groups can identify."

Patterson further noted that Carson's North Carolina roots aided in his selection: "I wouldn't want to have only North Carolinians on the faculty, but I think anytime you can add a North Carolina native with significant degrees and a broad, effective background in teaching, you are certainly ahead in the game."

"Carson is one of those wonderfully 'omnicompetent' individuals who can actually teach in most any discipline he is assigned," said Patterson. Carson will teach courses in theology and in ethics at both the master of divinity and associate of divinity levels this fall.

Southeastern's academic affairs vice president, Russ Bush, noted Carson's "impressive academic credentials" as one of the many factors that prompted his hiring.

Carson said he looks forward with "great joy" to coming to Southeastern, while admitting his departure from Gardner-Webb will not be without some sadness and regret.

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"I love this school. I love the church at which I pastor. But I have always been a man of adventure who listened when the Lord said, 'I want you to go somewhere else,'" said Carson.

He continued, "I know this is what God wills and I look forward with enthusiasm and an upbeat attitude. The whole idea with me is the Lord's will be done."

A native of Marion, N.C., Carson makes no effort to hide his excitement about this new challenge, saying he "believes in what the seminary and Dr. Patterson are doing."

Carson said God called him to a ministry of teaching while he was a junior at Shaw University in Raleigh, N.C. "I love teaching," said Carson. "I have never regretted one moment of being a teacher.

"My students sometimes ask me, where do you get all this stuff? I say to them, 'When you are sleeping, I'm awake studying because I only need three hours of sleep a night.

"I am a very enthusiastic person," said Carson. "I will bring excitement to my classrooms. I'll get in there, and I'll be bouncing up and down on my toes just feeling good. They won't find me sitting still. I stand all the time. I'm in perpetual motion. My hands are flying. I'm getting enthusiastic about something. I'll lean across the desk. I'll slide across the floor and say, 'Look! Here's the way it goes.

"I tell my students: If you will bring forth the effort, trust God and work with me, you will succeed. I bring the idea of getting my students closer to God. I never start a class without prayer. I wouldn't try it. I wouldn't chance it."

Carson, who earned his doctor of philosophy degree at Drew University in Madison, N.J., began his teaching career as Bible knowledge master at Waka Schools, Biu, Northeastern State, Nigeria, West Africa in 1962. His master of divinity degree is from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky.

Carson, who has been married to his wife, Glenwood, 34 years, has a grown daughter and son, Tricia Gayle and Aaron.

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Texas executive board target
trustees for firing Dilday

Baptist Press
6/08/94

By Orville Scott & Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP)--Trustees of Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary "acted irresponsibly and unconscionably in the manner in which they removed Russell Dilday from the presidency of the seminary," according to the executive board of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

With 13 abstentions and some opposing votes, a clear majority of the 213-member board at its quarterly meeting in Dallas June 7 approved a resolution presented by Bruce Prescott, pastor of Easthaven Baptist Church in Houston, praising Dilday as "a man of uncompromising integrity, unrepachable theology and unassailable administrative abilities" and condemning the actions of the trustees who fired him on March 9.

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The resolution noted that members of the board wished "to formally record our disapproval of the dismissal of Dr. Dilday, to remind Southwestern's trustees of their moral obligation to provide an equitable and generous severance package for the Dilday family, and to insist that the terms of the severance package neither infringe on Dr. Dilday's freedom to speak under the guidance of the Holy Spirit nor restrict his right to serve Christ according to the dictates of his own conscience."

Prescott said he did not feel he could be silent and thereby tacitly endorse what the Southwestern Seminary trustees had done.

Among those who objected to the language of Prescott's resolution was Ed Wright, pastor of Hillcrest Baptist Church in Austin, who said the language of the resolution sounded "inflammatory."

"It makes Dr. Dilday sound infallible," he added.

Another board member asked that the Texas Baptist executive board "not try to interfere with business" of another board but to "let the process work."

By a 2-1 margin, the board voted down an amendment to strike the part of the resolution that trustees "acted irresponsibly and unconscionably in the manner in which they removed Russell Dilday ..."

Then Charles Wisdom, pastor of First Baptist Church in Katy, said the resolution placed him in an untenable position because it sounded "vindictive."

He asked for the privilege of abstention and 12 other board members also abstained from voting.

The board also approved, with only two opposing votes, a resolution by David Becker, pastor of University Heights Baptist Church in Huntsville, praising Dilday for his contributions to Baptist life.

In other business, the BGCT executive board approved a recommendation by BGCT President Jerold R. McBride, pastor of First Baptist Church in San Angelo, calling for the appointment of a theological education study committee.

The recommendation authorized the president of the BGCT and the chairman of the executive board to appoint a committee of at least 15 members "to study the possible need for additional opportunities for theological education in Texas."

As recommended, the committee will "evaluate the current theological education programs to determine their adequacies to meet the need of Baptist churches and other denominational entities in Texas."

The committee will bring its findings and recommendations to the BGCT executive board at its Sept. 13 meeting. If approved by the board, its recommendations would be considered by the convention at its annual meeting Oct. 31-Nov. 1 in Amarillo, Texas.

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Desert Storm vet uses war stories to reach teens

By David Winfrey

**Baptist Press
6/08/94**

NASHVILLE (BP)--A former Marine combat engineer now uses his Desert Storm experience in spiritual warfare.

David Boyd, 24, works with an evangelistic team based in Orlando, Fla., speaking at high schools about his military work and helping local Christian youth draw their non-Christian friends to crusades.

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Boyd says his involvement with youth is an example of the new techniques needed to reach "Generation X," those born between 1965 and 1980.

"It has got to be something fresh and new," says Boyd, who quickly adds that breaking a few molds doesn't mean compromising the gospel message. "Our generation is characterized by people who rebel from the status quo, but they are really seeking truth."

Boyd spent five months in Desert Storm. His primary duty there was clearing land mines out of the path of armored personnel carriers traveling into Kuwait for the ground assault on the Iraqi army.

The former youth minister at Calvary Baptist Church in Alcoa, Tenn., says he used his time in Kuwait to lead 16 fellow Marines, including his commanding officer, to become Christians. "I honest-to-goodness think that's the only reason I was there."

In schools, Boyd doesn't talk about Christianity, but instead mixes humor and war stories to tell students how they can be successful in life.

"Military history really gets their attention," says Boyd, who now lives in Nashville, attending Belmont University. After his address, Boyd and Christian students pass out tickets to a "pizza blitz" sponsored by the crusade before the youth emphasis night.

Boyd's wit and compassion gain the attention of students at the school assemblies and help draw students to youth night at the crusades, says Byron Bledsoe, a crusade coordinator for the Jim Wilson Evangelistic Association.

"I really believe the reason a lot of them come on Tuesday (youth emphasis) night is because of him," says Bledsoe, who has worked two years with Boyd. "He has a genuine concern and I think the teen-agers see that."

Boyd says his wife, Laura, a fifth-grade teacher, also helps him relate to students. "We've got to make them see that Christianity is more than just rules and regulations. It's a relationship with the creator of the universe."

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Structure, personnel changes
announced at Glorieta center

Baptist Press
6/08/94

GLORIETA, N.M. (BP)--Organizational and personnel changes to increase marketing services and reduce operational expenses have been announced at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, according to Larry Haslam, director.

Three support staff positions and one management position have been eliminated. Two of the three support staff persons are eligible for early retirement. The manager and third support staff person will receive severance benefits and outplacement assistance. A second management person has requested medical disability retirement. If the request is approved, that position will be eliminated, bringing the total number of positions eliminated to five.

The conference services section will be enlarged and renamed marketing and conference services. Responsibilities of section personnel will include marketing to meeting planners and then providing a full range of services to the groups while they are on campus.

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In addition to the positions being eliminated, Haslam said the job descriptions of 13 other positions will be affected by organizational restructuring. After the elimination of positions, the conference center will employ 120 regular and part-time employees. A number of temporary employees and summer staffers also work at Glorieta.

"The conference center is experiencing growth in guest nights between September and May but declines in the summer," Haslam said. "These strategic changes will position us to have the most efficient and effective operation while increasing efforts to draw groups to Glorieta."