

From tent meetings to classrooms

School stresses discipline, fundamentalism

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP)—Bob Jones University, which prides itself on taking the revival spirit from tent meetings to the classroom, holds onto a religious fundamentalism that is diminishing in the South.

The university strives to train young men and women in its philosophy of life, which includes a literal interpretation of the Bible and a rejection of liberal church doctrine.

To that end, the university has created an environment where opera and fine arts are respected, but where smoking, dancing, card-playing and movies are forbidden.

It is also a university that boasts a cosmopolitan student body from 20 countries, but where unmarried blacks are not admitted.

Because single blacks are excluded, the Justice Department considers the admissions policy racially discriminatory. Since the university receives no federal funds, lifting its tax exempt status is the government's only means of forcing change, the department says.

On that issue, the U.S. Supreme Court recently ruled in favor of the Internal Revenue Service, a decision which will in effect strip Bob Jones University of its tax exempt status.

Learning has a special flavor at Bob Jones, which calls itself "The World's Most Unusual University." Liberal arts and sciences are mixed with a heavy dose of old-time religion.

Regular attendance at a fundamentalist church, one that adheres to conservative Protestant beliefs and

militantly rejects liberalism is expected of every student. Applicants must name their church and pastor on the admissions form.

University officials refrain from talking to newsmen, claiming the press has distorted the image of the school over the years.

"The press has sometimes compared us to the snake eaters in the mountains, and made fun of our rules," a spokesman said. "They don't talk about the positive things. This is a high quality, Christian school."

According to the student handbook, students are encouraged to refrain from listening to contemporary, pop, rock or country and Western music in favor of classical or church music.

To make sure they have access to acceptable music, the school operates an AM-FM radio station, which broadcasts opera and other serious music along with conservative political commentary.

The school's racial policy, which set it on the collision course with the federal courts, stems from what it interprets as a Biblical admonition against interracial marriage. According to a spokesman, the university accepts Orientals and married blacks.

He did not say whether any blacks are now enrolled. "We will accept Orientals," he said, "but they must not date out of their race."

Candidates for admission must state their race on the application and, if

admitted, must refrain from any involvement in civil rights activity. The rule is stated broadly, and presumably would apply to participation in rallies, marches or any overt activity.

The university was founded in 1927 by the Rev. Bob Jones, Sr., a widely known conservative evangelist. In 1933 it was moved from northwestern Florida to Cleveland, Tenn., and in 1947 to Greenville, a textile-manufacturing city in the state's north-west Bible Belt.

The founder died in 1968. His son, Bob Jones, Jr., is the chancellor, and his grandson, Dr. Bob Jones, III, is the president.

The university makes no apologies for its unabashed fundamentalism. "We think the Scripture has not changed

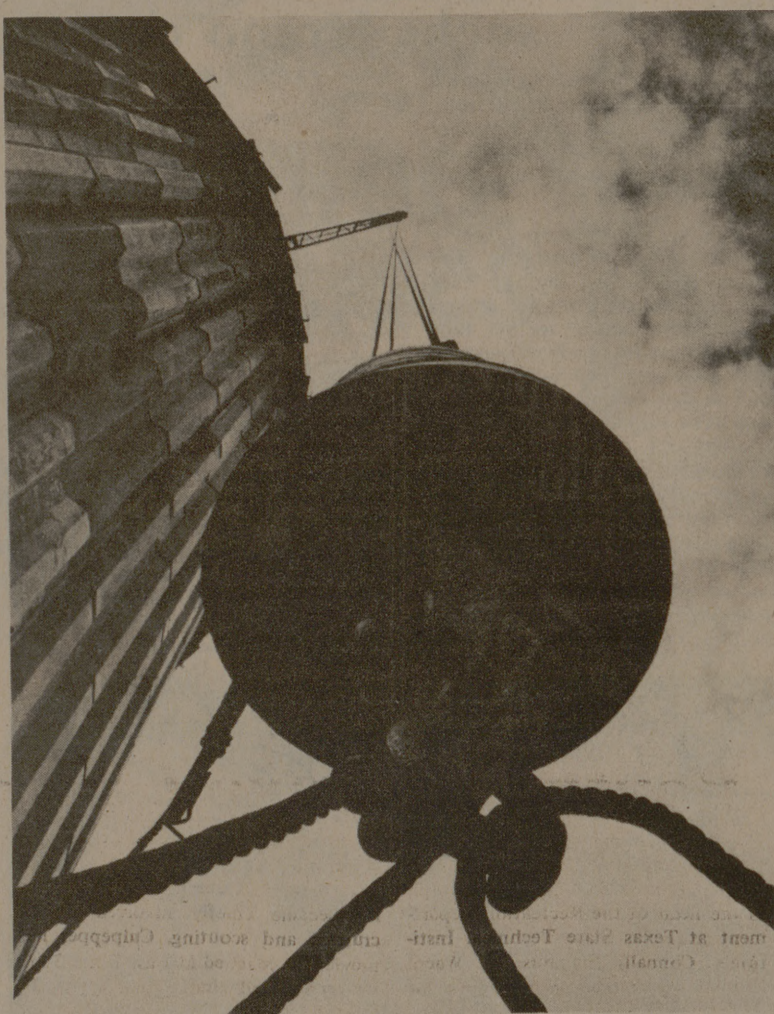
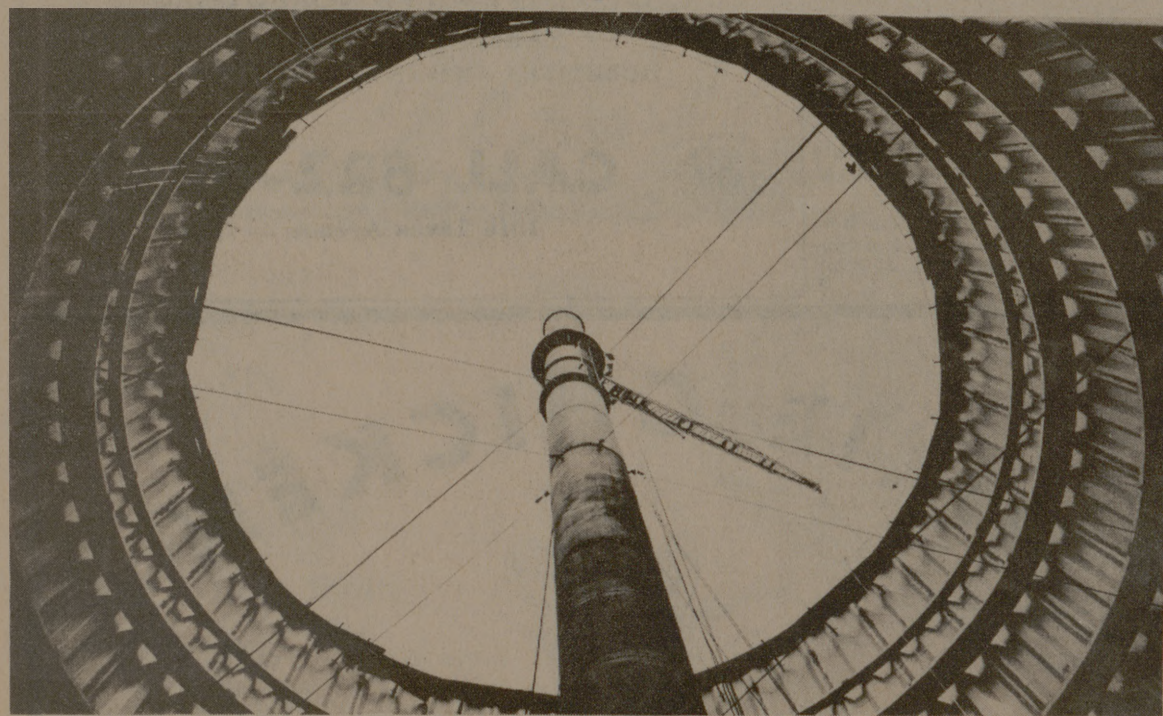
and the Christ of the Bible has not changed," the spokesman said. "So we have not changed."

As a bulwark of fundamentalism, BJU hires only fundamentalists for its faculty. Each year faculty members must sign a statement affirming their belief in the tenets of fundamentalism. These include the absolute authority of the Bible, the divinity of Jesus and the Virgin Birth. About 85 percent of the

faculty hold degrees from BJU. The art museum includes galleries, filled primarily with religious paintings from various Italian and Dutch schools. Most were donated by friends of the university.

The university's Shakespeare repertoire group, the Classic Players, listed by the international Shakespeare Survey as one of the country's "most worthy classic repertoire companies

The new (not yet) blue water tower...going up



Battalion photographer David Kimmel snapped three unusual views of the new water tower being built on the north side of campus. Now orange with primer, the tower will be painted light blue.

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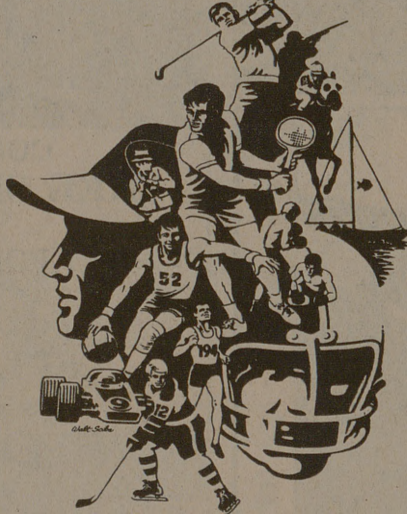
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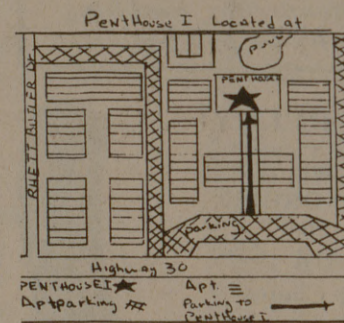
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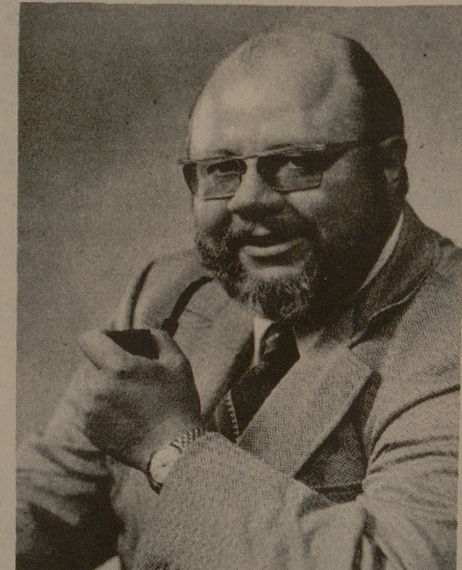


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