

the state

Bible interpretation big issue

Baptists convene in Houston

United Press International
HOUSTON — Southern Baptists will determine the future course of an internal dispute over how strictly to interpret the Bible by electing officers at the 122nd Southern Baptist Convention's opening sessions today.

An unusual amount of electioneering — including an unexpected public endorsement of a candidate by a former convention president, the Rev. W.A. Criswell of Dallas — marked preliminary sessions Sunday and Monday.

There were reports those favoring strict "biblical inerrancy," that is stringent enforcement of the Bible as church doctrine, were planning to provide transportation for delegates expected to vote their way.

Criswell, whose 20,000-member Dallas First Baptist Church is the denomination's largest, Sunday violated what he called "an unwritten law" against former convention presidents' endorsing candidates.

"We will have a great time here if for no other reason than to elect Adrian Rogers (pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church of Memphis) president of the Southern Baptist Convention," Criswell told the two-day pastors conference.

Criswell said others mentioned as inerrancy candidates, the Rev. Bailey Smith of First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla., and the Rev. Jerry Vines of Dauphin Way Baptist Church, Mobile, Ala., will withdraw if Rogers runs.

No leading candidate had emerged from the other side, which espouses commitment to the Bible as ruling doctrine but recommends concentrating on worldwide missionary commitment rather than doctrinal criticism.

Among possible alternatives to Rogers were Baylor University president Abner McCall; the Rev. William Self of Wieuca Road Baptist Church, Atlanta, and the Rev. Douglas Watterson of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn.

Two-term, outgoing president Jimmy Allen, pastor of San Antonio First Baptist Church, had expressed concern doctrinal quibbling will distract from the theme, "Bold Mission Thrust," a call to spread the gospel to the entire world by 2000.

Vet dies in war argument

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A former Marine who survived a rifle bullet in Vietnam only to die eight years later in an argument over the war with hometown friends was buried Monday at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

"On behalf of a grateful nation, we present to you our nation's flag," a cemetery official said as he handed to the victim's sobbing mother the folded American flag which had covered the coffin of Robert I. Martinez.

FBI releases drawing of Wood assassin

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The FBI Monday released another composite drawing of a man it wants to question in its investigation of the May 29 assassination of U.S. District Judge John H. Wood Jr.

The sketch of a young man with dark complexion and large nose brought to six the number of composite drawings compiled by an FBI artist from descriptions given by residents of the Chateaux Dijon Townhomes where Wood was shot in the back with a single .243-caliber bullet.

Michael A. Morrow, special agent in charge of the local FBI, said that the individual portrayed in the drawing, "is not necessarily a suspect in the assassination, but was also described by witnesses as being in the immediate vicinity of Judge Wood's residence at the time of the shooting."

A special team of 40 FBI agents assigned to the case so far have not identified any of the persons in the six composite drawings, a spokesman said.

Martinez, 32, was stabbed four times in a fight with two former high school chums who allegedly "were making fun of him because he was in the war," according to his brother, Jesse, 21.

The brother told police a man held him at gunpoint to prevent him from going to Martinez' aid.

"It was jealousy, I guess," Jesse Martinez said. "He (Robert Martinez) said, 'are you making fun of me?' and they began to fight."

Martinez, a migrant worker staying temporarily with his parents in San Antonio en route from Michigan to California, was survived by his wife, Solia, and six stepchildren ages 4 to 16.

"Whether we won the war in Vietnam or whether we thought it was silly, I really don't care," the Rev. Eugene Michaels said, addressing 100 friends and relatives at St. Joseph Catholic Church. "He went to Vietnam and fought for a country that at times forgot him. There's lots of violence in the world today. We don't even know why it's there."



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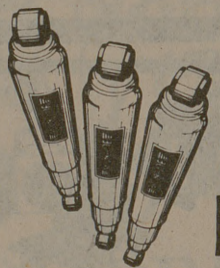
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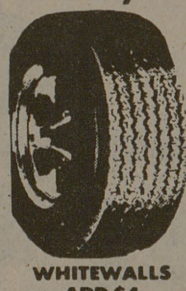
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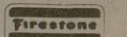


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