

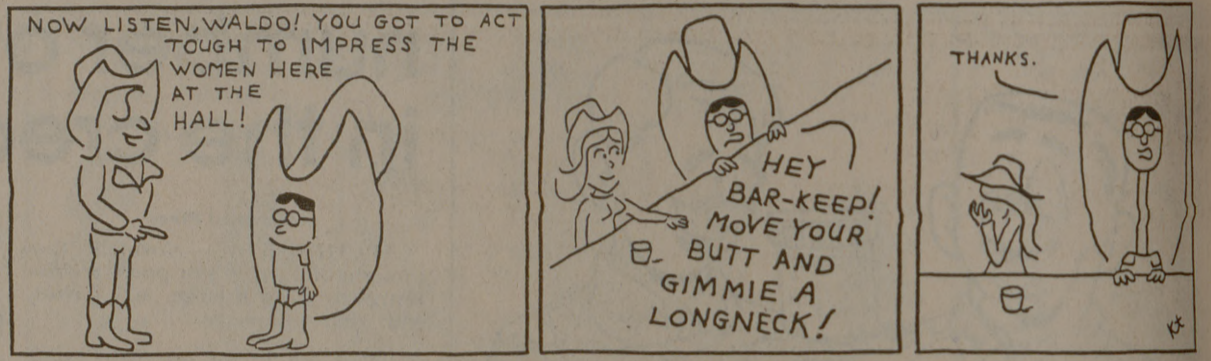
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Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Baptist group investigating possible divestiture in Africa

Associated Press
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Southern Baptist Foundation's finance committee group delayed on Tuesday making a recommendation on whether to divest the church's assets in companies doing business in South Africa, a member said.

Tim Hedquist, director of financial planning for the finance committee, said the panel instead would review the issue at its next scheduled meeting in February, allowing time to find out more about what church entities have invested in South Africa and how much is invested.

He said the national foundation also wants to learn more about where local groups within the church stand on the issue.

"The committee did not have enough information to act on the motion," Hedquist said. "There has been no move to take any action. We're still in the study phase."

Hedquist said a subcommittee of the financial panel would consult with 20 church agencies before meeting again in February.

Hollis Johnson, executive secretary-treasurer of the foundation, supported maintaining church investments in white minority-ruled South Africa and using those investments as leverage against the apartheid government to have it cease its racial policies.

"I think we can do more good by staying with the companies that are already there and see to it they are making conscientious efforts to improve the conditions of blacks," Johnson said.

"If we sold the stocks, we'd have no right to go to a company and tell them how to run their business there," Johnson told the Southern Baptist executive committee's finance group, which meets here through Wednesday.

He said about \$5 million of the \$40 million the foundation manages for several agencies of the Nashville-based Southern Baptist Convention is tied up in firms with links to South Africa.

Although the foundation has invested in 10 firms that do business

with South Africa, Johnson said more than 1 percent of each firm's total business is conducted in that country.


"Many companies there are trying to make improvements and put pressure on the government," he said. "I'm saying we should urge those companies there to do what's right."

Harold Bennett, who heads the 69-member executive committee, said the investment issue is one of several to be considered by the panel, which conducts business for the 14.4 million-member Southern Baptist Convention between annual sessions.

Most of the convention's 20 agencies control their own investments. The largest is the Annuity Board, based in Dallas, which manages church pensions and has assets of \$1.25 billion.

The finance committee recommended Monday that the executive committee collect statements from all convention agencies outlining the guidelines they are using.

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Senator's wife joins battle for warning labels

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Beryl "B.A." Bentsen, wife of Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, says she is not expecting "moon in June," but has joined a group of congressional wives campaigning for warning labels on rock records that contain sexually graphic lyrics.

"Rock music, I think, has a wonderful beat," she said. "It makes you feel good, and you want to dance. I just wasn't listening to the lyrics."

Bentsen said she got involved when Treasury Secretary James Baker's wife, Susan, asked her to sign a letter for Parents' Music Resource Center, a group of congressional wives seeking a rating system for record albums.

Objectionable lyrics, the group says, are written by artists ranging from obscure "heavy-metal" groups to top-selling hit-makers like Prince.

The Senate Commerce Committee has scheduled a hearing Thursday on the issue of rating records with music stars John Denver, Frank Zappa and Twisted Sister slated to be among the witnesses.

The Recording Industry Association of America has agreed to label selected albums "parental guidance, explicit lyrics," but the PMRC says that doesn't go far enough.

Record manufacturers, Bentsen said, "don't want to act as censors. That certainly isn't the goal of the group I'm involved with."

"I just don't know of anything a consumer buys today blindly except rock music," said Bentsen, who says she is a fan of Michael Jackson and Bruce Springsteen.

Justice of the peace kicked out of office

Associated Press
RICHMOND — A controversial Fort Bend County justice of the peace vows he'll continue to hear cases despite being ousted from office by county commissioners.

On Monday, county commissioners replaced Justice of the Peace James M. Scott Jr., 44, because he filed for another elected position while more than a year remains in his current term.

"I'm in office until I'm legally removed," Scott said. "The (county commissioners) have not legally removed me."

On Monday, he said he would continue doing his job. But he failed to show up at the courthouse Tuesday. Scott could not be reached for comment Tuesday.

The county commissioners contend Scott automatically vacated his office on Sept. 10 when he filed a document with the Fort

Bend county clerk designating a campaign treasurer for the county court at law race and naming himself as a candidate.

The new county court seat was created by the Legislature and will come into existence in January 1987. Candidates for the bench must be on the November 1986 general election ballot.

State law requires that a justice of the peace who announces his candidacy for another office while having more than one year remaining on his current term of office automatically resigns his post upon announcement, Assistant District Attorney Larry Wagenbach said.

During Monday's hearing, Scott refused to confirm or deny he had filed a document for the county court-at-law race with the county clerk and refused Wagenbach's suggestions that he be sworn as were other witnesses.

Bus wreck injures 19

Associated Press
AUSTIN — Nineteen elementary students suffered minor injuries when two school buses collided on an Austin street, officials said Tuesday.

The buses were each carrying 60 children in the fourth, fifth and sixth grades when the accident occurred about 3:15 p.m. Monday, said Dan Roberts, transportation supervisor for the Austin Independent School District.

He said one of the buses, which have a capacity of 71 elementary students, was hit from behind by the other.

All of the students injured were treated at Brackenridge Hospital, a hospital spokesman said.

Sammie Culliver, the driver of the bus in the rear, will not return to work until district officials finish investigating the accident, said Gayland Walker, director of transportation for the school district.

Walker said Culliver told him the collision occurred because his attention had been diverted to the children. "He said he looked up in the mirror and had said something to a kid or tried to get a kid to sit down," Walker said.

Neither of the bus drivers was treated for injury.

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