

# Cartoon\_71204

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"Uh oh! A chain epistle!"
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News of religion, faith, missions, Bible study and Christian ministry among Texas Baptist churches, in the BGCT, the Southern Baptist Convention ( SBC ) and around the world.

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## **Church-state watchdogs won court battle, lost PR war, attorney notes\_71204**

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### **Church-state watchdogs won court battle, lost PR war, attorney notes**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)-In facing down Alabama's "Ten Commandments judge" and winning, Richard Cohen admitted he and other supporters of church-state separation won a legal battle but may have lost the public-

relations war.

“The real battle here wasn't in the court of law, where we were comfortable,” said Cohen, president of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Ala. “It was in the court of public opinion.”

Cohen addressed supporters of the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs at a luncheon during the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship general assembly in Birmingham, Ala.

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## **Two Texans named to Fellowship task force on partnership with Baptist World Alliance\_71204**

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### **Two Texans named to Fellowship task force on partnership with Baptist World**

# Alliance

**By Lance Wallace**

*CBF Communications*

ATLANTA-The Cooperative Baptist Fellowship's new moderator has appointed a task force on the Baptist World Alliance to explore ways the Fellowship can be a good partner with the goal fellowship.

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## **Being near the right Son opens doors, theologian preaches\_71204**

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## **Being near the right Son opens doors, theologian preaches**

**By Robert Marus**

*Associated Baptist Press*

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (ABP)- Being near the right Son can open doors for you, Virginia theologian John Kinney told participants at the Cooperative

Baptist Fellowship's general assembly.

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# **San Antonio missions minister, pastor from College Station named CBF-Texas officers\_71204**

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## **San Antonio missions minister, pastor from College Station named CBF-Texas officers**

BIRMINGHAM, Ala.—A San Antonio missions minister and a College Station pastor assumed the elected leadership of Cooperative Baptist Fellowship-Texas during the group's annual meeting, held in conjunction with the national CBF general assembly in Birmingham.

Debbie Ferrier, minister of missions at Trinity Baptist Church in San Antonio, became moderator of the Texas group after serving a year as moderator-elect.

Rodney McGlothlin, pastor of First Baptist Church in College Station, was

chosen moderator-elect and will succeed Ferrier in 2005.

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# **Community rehab volunteers seek to show 'what the church ought to be'\_71204**

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Volunteers from churches in Springtown, Keller and DeLeon join members of First Baptist Church in Comanche in painting and renovating homes for unchurched, low-income residents in their communities. It's part of Community Rehab, a ministry launched by the Comanche church.

## **Community rehab volunteers seek to**

# show 'what the church ought to be'

**By Janelle Bagci**

*Staff Writer*

COMANCHE-Five years ago, members of First Baptist Church in Comanche launched a community project repairing homes in their town. This year, the project spread to surrounding counties, and the volunteers-mostly teenagers-reconstructed 17 homes.

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## **Compensation survey shows BGCT churches rank #2 in pay for pastors\_71204**

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## **Compensation survey shows BGCT churches rank #2 in pay for pastors**

**By Trennis Henderson**

*Kentucky Western Recorder*

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP)-The average salary and housing for full-time

Baptist pastors is \$46,505, according to a national compensation study. That is a jump of 6.7 percent from a similar study conducted two years ago.

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# **Court rules Child Online Protection Act appears unconstitutional\_71204**

July 9, 2004

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## **Court rules Child Online Protection Act appears unconstitutional**

**By Robert Marus**

*ABP Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON (ABP)—A federal law attempting to make it harder for children and teenagers to access Internet pornography cannot be enforced because it likely violates the First Amendment, the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled.

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# **Colorado Supreme Court strikes down state's school-voucher pilot program\_71204**

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## **Colorado Supreme Court strikes down state's school-voucher pilot program**

DENVER (ABP)-Colorado's highest court has ruled unconstitutional a state law that would have set up a school-voucher program, including religious and other private schools.

On a 4-3 vote, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled the state's Colorado Opportunity Contract Pilot Program violated a state constitutional provision regarding local school boards' control over educational instruction in their districts.

The program was passed by the state legislature and signed into law by Gov. Bill Owens (R) last year.

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# **Cybercolumn by Berry D. Simpson: Skating the issue\_71204**

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## **CYBERCOLUMN: Skating the issue**

**By Berry D. Simpson**

The vote was 14 in favor of installing signs around the church property that said, "No Skateboarding," and 17 against. I was one of the 17 who voted against the recommendation, and I have been wondering since if I did the right thing.

Earlier that same night, we voted unanimously to create a new worship service on Sunday evenings, a seeker service aimed at people unlikely to join one of our regular worship services. I couldn't square a vote in favor of reaching unchurched people with a vote to tell young skateboarders, "Go away." Not in the same night. Maybe I'll change my vote next time it comes up, but I don't know.

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# **DBU soccer teams kick off missions venture in Mexico\_71204**

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## **DBU soccer teams kick off missions venture in Mexico**

DBU students (from left) M'Leigha Jones, Andrea Spillers and Chris Palmore paint a small church in Reynosa, Mexico. The students were part of an eight-member mission trip sponsored by the DBU soccer teams that also involved work at Big Heart Orphanage. It was the fourth mission trip involving participants in the DBU soccer program, according to Coach David Grannis. Spillers, who is captain of the women's soccer team, said: "I have gone on this trip twice, and each time it has given me a greater appreciation for all the opportunities God has given me."

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# **DOWNHOME: Maybe purgatory is infinite spam\_71204**

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## **DOWN HOME: Maybe purgatory is infinite spam**

Whoever said, "No good deed goes unpunished" must have known the person who discovered the Law of Unintended Consequences. And they both must've been thinking about my e-mail.

Last year, my friend Mark and I decided to rid ourselves of all unwanted e-mail, known the world over as spam.

We already had anti-virus and spam-protection programs on our computers, but we still were getting spammed. All day, every day.