



# Adventists in The News

by Roy Branson

*From Christmas at the Kennedy Center to the pages of Christian Century to the first hospital-based proton accelerator.*

## Paul Hill

Two nights before Christmas, in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall, Paul Hill, a member of Sligo church, directed the last sing-along *Messiah* concert of his career. Since he is suffering from a degenerative muscle disorder, Hill could not stand on a podium to lead the sold out Concert Hall. He insists that he will continue to conduct, but he directed his 20th consecutive, and final, *Messiah* sing-along sitting on a tall stool.

Paul Hill moved from being choral director at Columbia Union College to leading the 160-voice Paul Hill Chorale in 1967. He appeared at the opening concert of the Kennedy Center, where he has since conducted more than 200 concerts. In addition to the *Messiah* sing-along, Hill transferred the Christmas Candlelight Concert from Sligo church to the Kennedy Center, where it also became a tradition. It always concludes with choir members, holding candles, surrounding the audience. The Paul Hill Chorale became noted for con-

certs with singers and brass choirs sounding antiphonally throughout the concert hall. *The Washington Post* recently cited the Paul Hill Chorale as one of the three top choral groups in Washington, D.C., a city it modestly called the choral capital of America.

Hill's Chorale has sung at the cathedrals of Chartres and Notre Dame de Paris, with the American Ballet Theatre, the Joffrey Ballet, the Royal Ballet, and the Dance Theatre of Harlem, and won an Emmy award for its televised performance of Menotti's *The Unicorn, the Gorgon, and the Manticore*. During the 1992-1993 school year, Hill agreed to once again conduct the Columbia Union College concert choir.

At the December 1993 Kennedy Center concert, Hill invited those in the audience who had brought along scores of the *Messiah* to rise. When Hill asked the tenors to stand, a tall figure in the central box rose, his score in hand. It took a minute for the sold-out audience to realize that the President of the United States had joined the chorus of Paul

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Hill's last *Messiah* sing-along. They applauded appreciatively. By the time the altos and sopranos had been invited to stand, Hillary and Chelsea, each with their own scores, had joined the President.

Paul Hill climaxed his career leading 2,700 voices in the "Hallelujah Chorus," with the First Family singing their hearts out.

### John Hoyt

John Hoyt, associate professor of Art at Canadian Union College, received the top prize of \$1,500 in an art competition organized by the Medici Art Foundation of Edmonton, Canada in the fall of 1993. The judges unanimously chose his religious painting, *Book of the Dead*, from submissions from 80 contestants. The judges said that it demonstrated a sophisticated command of craft, form and color. The painting, a triptych, takes its name from an ancient Egyptian book. Interestingly, another work by Hoyt, *Freudian Self Portrait*, was earlier removed from the exhibition because of objections to a male figure glaring in a purple rage at a departing woman.

Hoyt told the *Alberta Report* magazine that he believes "in a benevolent force encompassing the universe, . . ." and the "internal image of God" is important to him. "I feel the kingdom of God is within," he said. Hoyt's article, "Cracking Nuts or Peeling Onions?" appeared in the October 1993 issue of *Spectrum* (Vol. 23, No. 3).

### Rochelle Philmon Kilgore

The best-known centenarian in North American Adventism died February 23, 1993, at the age of 106. Rochelle Philmon Kilgore passed away in her own home in the middle of the campus of Atlantic Union College, where she was a professor emeritus of English. She had been head of the English department,

where she taught full-time to the age of 74. She was also the school's liaison to Adventist service personnel and students in Europe, attending 25 consecutive servicemen's retreats from 1957 to 1981, when she was 96. She remained actively working with the alumni association until she was 100.

According to Jocelyn Fay, alumni director at AUC, Kilgore was born on July 25, 1887. She graduated from Graysville Academy, the forerunner of Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists, in 1904. After 12 years of teaching church school, she received her B.A. from Union College—at the age of 33—then completed her master's degree back home, at the University of Georgia. She never quite lost the air of a Southern lady, but a lady with a sense of humor. When she called on one of her students to repeat by heart an assigned poem, three students, including a future president of Atlantic Union and Walla Walla Colleges, Robert Reynolds, marched to the front of the class and together recited a parody. Kilgore laughed until the tears ran down her cheeks—then demanded the students repeat the assigned poem.

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Rochelle Philmon Kilgore, born only 22 years after the Civil War on a cotton plantation in Reynolds, Georgia, now rests in abolitionist Massachusetts, survived by the memories of generations of her students.

### James Londis

James Londis became president of Atlantic Union College in January 1994. Londis most recently was vice president for community services at New England Memorial Hospital, where he had worked since 1989. Prior to that, he had served for several years as director of the Washington Institute, and for 10 years as senior pastor of the Sligo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Takoma Park, Maryland. (Three of the past four senior pastors of Sligo—Drs. Loveless, Scriven, and Londis—have become presidents of Adventist colleges.) Londis came to Sligo from the campus of Atlantic Union College, where he taught for 10 years (1965-1975) in the religion department of his alma mater. During that time he received his Ph.D. in philosophy of religion from Boston University.

It is striking that, for whatever reason, Londis is the seventh of 11 presidents of Adventist senior colleges in North America who received their doctorates in some area of theology: Richard Leshner (religious education, New York University)—Andrews University; Charles Scriven (theology, Graduate Theological Union)—Columbia Union College; Larry Geraty (Old Testament, Harvard University)—La Sierra University; Benjamin Reaves (Ministry, Andrews University)—Oakwood College; Malcolm Maxwell (New Testament, Princeton Theological Seminary)—Pacific Union College; and Niels-Erik Andreasen (Old Testament, Vanderbilt University)—Walla Walla College.

## A. Gregory Schneider

A Gregory Schneider, professor of behavioral science at Pacific Union College, has received reviews of a newly published book that any college professor would gladly kill for. His work will also inevitably contribute to a growing sense among Adventists that to understand themselves they must know more about their Wesleyan Methodist roots.

Donald G. Mathews, a professor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, was asked to review the manuscript of *The Way of the Cross Leads Home: The Domestication of American Methodism*, when it was submitted for publication. Mathews wrote back a critique that, not surprisingly, helped convince the Indiana University Press (Bloomington, Ind.) to publish the volume in 1993:

"In this imaginative, brilliant, and profound case study of American Methodism lies a new model for understanding the history of American religion and society. Schneider's reading of Methodist discourse provides a truly innovative way of thinking about 19th-century American faith, gender, family, and culture. His study should become one of the landmarks of American religious history."

Catherine L. Albanese and Stephen J. Stein, highly respected historians of American religious history and the editors of the series in which Schneider's volume appears, say in their foreword that "Schneider's story is part of a new

wave of scholarship on the Methodists that is effectively marking the differences between Methodist and Calvinist piety. . . . Schneider's interdisciplinary approach, with its combinations of rhetorical analysis, psychological insight, phenomenological epoche, and historical narrative, is masterfully integrated into the tale he tells."

Paul Merritt Bassett, professor of the history of Christianity at Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Missouri, leads off his review in *The Christian Century* (October 20, 1993) by declaring that "this book merits Donald Mathews's enthusiastic blurb on the jacket and the praise heaped upon it by Catherine Albanese and Stephen Stein in the foreword." He goes on to say that Schneider has produced "a seminal study of early 19th-century American Methodist theology and piety. It also presents an innovative and supple model for analyzing 19th-century religion in general."

After graduating from Columbia Union College, Schneider received his Ph.D. from the University of Chicago, studying under Martin Marty, America's best-known historian of American religion, and won a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to write his book.

## James Slater

On December 15, the board of the Loma Linda University Medical Center created a new po-

sition, Executive Vice-president. James Slater, M.D., chairman of the Department of Radiation Medicine, accepted the board's invitation to fill the position. The new position and title gives Slater wide-ranging responsibilities.

Slater shares a commitment to state-of-the-art medicine with Dr. David Hinshaw, president of the Medical Center. Slater, more than any other single person, is responsible for Loma Linda securing the first hospital-based proton accelerator applied to medical therapies. As chairman of the department of radiation science, Slater had a key role in convincing the university to launch a venture that continues to expand. Along with that of Hinshaw, Slater's testimony before the U.S. Congress helped secure tens of millions of dollars in federal funding for the proton accelerator. Indeed, Slater continues to be a member of the Science Policy Advisory Committee to the U.S. House of Representatives.

Slater received his M.D. from Loma Linda University, and won a National Institutes of Health fellowship to spend a year at the M.D. Anderson Hospital and Tumor Institute in Houston, Texas. He has been invited to consult with many institutions, including the U.S. Department of Energy, the Harvard Joint Center for Radiation Therapy, the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory, and the Los Alamos Cancer Research and Treatment Center. He is also a member of the European Community's "Europe Against Cancer" initiative.