

Pit preacher adapts style to convert UNC souls

By ELLEN RANSON
Special to the DTH

"I preach (at UNC) because Jesus said, 'Go into all the world and preach the Gospel,' (Mark 16:15) and Chapel Hill is in the world," a local pastor said.

Michael E. Evans, 29, pastor of United Christian Fellowship on the UNC campus, is a pit preacher, an evangelist who preaches in the plaza area in front of the student store.

Evans said his main message to students is "You need to be saved, you can't save yourself. Jesus provided for your salvation, and you can be saved today."

Evans said that he never plans anything he says in the Pit. And if he could only say one thing to a student, he said he would not mention Jesus' name. Evans would ask him, "If you died today, where would you spend the rest of eternity?"

Students should choose Christianity over other religions and cults, he said, because the others do not have a plan for salvation.

Evans said that "the Lord" chose UNC for his preaching. He preaches in the Pit because, "It's the best place to be," he said. "People congregate there. People expect something to be happening there."

Preaching in the Pit actually is becoming more of a teaching situation," he said. "I generally don't see as much adversity now. The ones who don't like it get up and leave."

He said that it is getting to the point where he sees the same faces coming back each day, and they are not all Christian. The vast majority, he said, are not Christians. He said that he knows of some professed Jews who listen to him.

"They listen, and that's all I'm interested in," he said.

Senate

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been running up," Poole said. "They figure, 'Hey, as long as we don't have to pay these bills...'"

Instead of mudslinging, Poole said the campaign workers developed a campaign of image and character. "We've made a conscious effort to let the people of North Carolina see him for what he is."

UNC political science professor Thad Beyle said he feels Sanford's statewide organizational plan is a key difference. "It's a very significant step," Beyle said. "It shows the contrast in the two candidacies."

While Broyhill is running a campaign similar to what Tar Heel voters have seen in recent years, Beyle said Sanford has resurrected a style of campaigning that makes Democrats feel important.

Beyle said Jim Hunt's political machine may have alienated some voters who felt the campaign was designed to benefit Hunt more than the party.

The Congressional Club, Jesse Helms' powerful political arm, figured heavily in the 1984 battle, but the group is not directly involved with Broyhill, Haynes said.

"They are not taking an active part in our campaign because Jim Broyhill runs his own campaign," he said.

But on Monday, Broyhill began running the first negative ads of the race in the form of 60-second radio commercials calling Sanford an "old-time liberal." The ads will run for about three weeks, Haynes told The Raleigh News and Observer.

Poole said young voters would not appreciate Congressional Club tactics. "I just feel that type of campaign would totally turn off first- or second-time voters. The most important quality is the character of the individual."

This is Broyhill's 24th year in Washington, D.C., and Haynes said that experience is the advantage he has over Sanford.



Evangelist preachers give fiery lectures that lure large crowds to the Pit

DTH/Larry Childress

Evans said that he had to use a different approach at UNC than he would elsewhere because the intellectuals question him.

"You have to show yourself knowledgeable about what you're talking about," he said. "You have

to explain certain things to them and be able to answer their questions more than at other places."

Evans said that the intellectual's

biggest problem is that he is "not really sure about anything."

"What I'm saying requires that he make some decisions," Evans said.

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Senator Broyhill has learned the fastest way to get things done for North Carolina, things you can't learn overnight," Haynes said.

"There will be no on-the-job training with Jim Broyhill in D.C."

With Sanford being a past North Carolina governor and the former president of Duke University, both men have solid political backgrounds in the Tar Heel state.

The key is which candidate can turn his experience into a political boost, Beyle said. "Both have had careers that have been productive for North Carolina in their own way," he added.

Gamble

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an advisory committee.

"The decision was made with the support of the student leaders and advisory board of the Campus Y," she said.

Gamble, who has been on vacation, will return to campus Aug. 25. Efforts to reach Gamble Tuesday and Wednesday were unsuccessful.

Boulton said Gamble "will finish up some things he was doing" when he returns to campus next week. "We had done things that needed to be done relative to the future of the Campus Y," he said, adding that Gamble will be finishing reports concerning the organization.

Hatcher-Wilson said two graduate students will be selected to replace Gamble during the 1986-87 school year. She said she had received about 10 applications for the position and plans to choose the graduate students by Aug. 24.

"The Campus Y Advisory Board will form a search committee and put the process (to find a permanent replacement) in motion," she said.

Hatcher-Wilson said she expects a new associate director to be hired by next fall.



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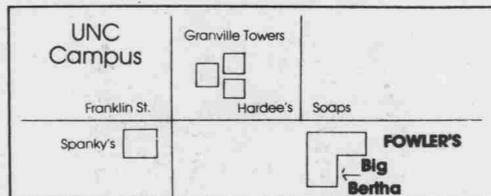
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