

The Daily Tar Heel

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The pilgrimage of Billy Graham

Evangelist's message has changed with time

By JOHN DRESCHER



The Rev. Billy Graham addresses UNC audience ... N.C. native has travelled the world

Back to basics

The Scholastic Aptitude Test scores rose this year after a 20-year decline. The increase wasn't much, but it was enough to put smiles back on educator's faces and bring sweeping promises of grandiose educational futures.

The increase is a welcome change. But state educators and lawmakers should treat it only as an impetus for increasing the emphasis on basics.

Last week the College Entrance Examination Board reported that the national SAT average for seniors graduating in 1982 was 426 for the verbal section and 467 for the math section. This is a jump of two points and one point respectively over last year's scores. In North Carolina the averages were 396 for verbal and 431 for math, increases of five and four points respectively.

The decline in SAT scores began in 1964, partly because of the sharp rise in the numbers of students taking the exam. Educators attribute this year's increase to several factors. Students now seem more aware of what it takes to succeed after graduation. They have discovered that it takes a college education to achieve what a high school education once did.

Also, more attention has been placed on the quality of teaching. In 19 states, prospective teachers now must pass a minimum competency exam before they can be certified. And this fall, a newly-revised National Teachers Exam will be administered. The test was reviewed by the Educational Testing Service because of new concern over the quality of teachers.

Most educators, however, attribute the rising scores to what they call the return of the three R's. Because of budget cuts, basic skills are taking the place of expensive field trips and other trappings of the so-called "new" education.

SAT scores are just one signal of quality in education. In North Carolina, large numbers of high school students still cannot pass the state's simplistic competency exam needed to graduate.

That's reason enough to show North Carolina educators that the state still has a long way to go in teaching its students the basics.

Playground politics

If, as it has been said, politics makes for strange bedfellows, then that explains why some rather diverse people have been sleeping together lately. In the latest release from the Cobey for Congress Committee, the committee uses references to the Raleigh News and Observer to prove a point about Cobey's opponent for the 4th district congressional seat, incumbent Ike Andrews.

The News and Observer is a staunchly Democratic paper; Cobey is a conservative Republican. But hey, mud is mud, and it's campaign time, so use whatever you can dig up, right? Andrews and Cobey representatives (Cobey's dirty work is done by GOP chairman David Flaherty and campaign manager Tom Fetzer) sound like children in a school yard.

"You did," says Davey.
"I did not," says 'lil Ike.
"Did too," says Tommy. And on and on ...

Take that latest press release from Cobey, which boldly proclaims that "Congressman Andrews' honesty is now the issue in this congressional race." Apparently, the medium of television is all behind this. Andrews said that Cobey's television advertisements, which accuse Andrews of opposing a balanced budget, misrepresent the truth. "They're just all the way from downright misrepresentations to half-truths and distortions," 'lil Ike said.

Malarkey, said Cobey campaign manager Fetzer. "That is a very serious charge," Tommy said. Now look kids, it's just a TV commercial, so let's not get all worked up about noth—"The Cobey campaign doesn't intend to allow Mr. Andrews to question our integrity," Tommy said.

Ah, integrity. So that is what it has all come down to. That's a fine thing to talk about in an election, but first it'd be nice for both sides to come out of their sandboxes and talk about a few real issues, of which we've yet to hear much of anything.

Carmichael Auditorium, Monday night, 5,000 people. The Rev. Billy Graham stands straight and tall behind the podium. The voice is deep and mellow with a certain aristocratic elegance, like a Southern version of English royalty. Both hands constantly move — waving, stabbing, plunging, pointing. The crowd — old women from the farms, middle-aged men in suits, students with books — listens attentively. Graham's voice thunders to fill the far corners of Carmichael, setting a scenario in which he and only he — and God — are the focus of all attention. "Now we must respond to that love and repent ..."

For 32 years Graham has been a revered man; in that time he has become the most effective evangelist since Paul. He has spoken in-person to more people than any other man in the history of the world. He surely isn't God, but just as surely, he seems to be something a bit higher than man.

Carolina Inn, Wednesday morning, three people. The Rev. Billy Graham leans back in a chair in his hotel room, coat off, his right leg thrown casually over his left. Across from him sits his public relations director, Don Bailey. Sunlight beams in appropriately over Graham's left shoulder from an open window. Relaxed, he appears much softer and vulnerable than the man who frantically gestures and shouts on stage. He walked for a mile this morning, his third walk since he hurt his back a few weeks ago, and he seems to be feeling as healthy and vigorous as he appears. He is anxious to begin jogging and swimming again.

Graham, 63, is from near Charlotte, and once thought of attending UNC, but instead followed his mother's wishes and attended a Christian school in Tennessee. After a short fling there he attended Florida Bible Institute in Temple Terrace, Fla. From there it was on to Wheaton College, an evangelical school in Illinois. In 1947 he became president of small Northwestern College in Minneapolis. "When I got there we had 700 students; when I left we had 1,200," he said. "I told them (admissions personnel) if they were warm and breathing and had \$100, take them in," he laughed.

"By '52, I knew I couldn't do both, so I resigned from the college presidency and went to this full-time, thinking I'd be in it for two to three years — never knowing I'd be in it for a lifetime," he said. Since then he has preached in nearly every state and all over the world.

From the time he graduated from college in 1943, he has frequently preached on college campuses. He said he has seen "drastic" changes in college students over the past 30 years. "I see a big change in the question-and-answer periods," Graham said. "In those days they asked questions on science and religion. Now you don't get those questions. It's all purpose and meaning of life, philosophical questions, political questions, social questions, and about peace. Students today are thinking more — religiously, socially and politically. They are far more interested and the crowds are bigger." Graham pointed to the Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship chapter at UNC, the largest one in the country. "The interest and enthusiasm of young people is greater."

"I think Christians ought to get into politics. Mr. Nixon is probably the best-trained man for President in American history, and he is certainly every inch a Christian gentleman."

— Rev. Billy Graham, Indianapolis Oct. 1959

"I don't believe God has called me to be a part of the Moral Majority or any political party."

— Rev. Billy Graham, Chapel Hill Sept. 1982

Students are not the only ones who have changed. As he has struggled with the mix of politics and religion, Graham's view of their relationship has changed. Although trying to remain politically neutral, he has not always done so.

During the 1960 campaign, Graham, a Nixon admirer, said, "This is a time for a man of experience and world stature, and not a novice." Starting with Eisenhower, he has been friends with the last seven presidents, and was probably closest to Johnson. LBJ's press secretary, Bill Moyers, once said: "Westmoreland was his general, his soldier. Fortas was his Jew. Thurgood Marshall was his Negro. And Billy was his preacher."

But Billy Graham will never again be any president's preacher. He was stung by Watergate and shocked and hurt when he listened to Nixon's tapes. He keeps his distance from politics now, never again wanting to get involved in specific issues and candidates. When Graham has ventured into politics, his skills have evaded him. He was severely chastised by the press this summer when, during a trip to the Soviet Union, he spoke of religious freedom in the Soviet Union. At a news conference Monday announcing a trip next month to East Germany and Czechoslovakia, Graham said he would avoid political involvement at all times.

About groups like the Moral Majority, he said, "They have a right to (enter

the political process), but I'm not going to get involved ... I don't skirt moral issues. But I'm not going to get involved in bringing my views to bear on specific issues or specific politicians."

So Graham frequently dodges issues, taking the middle ground, avoiding stances some people want him to take. In the 1960s, apparently not deeming the Vietnam war a moral issue, he refused to take a stand. "Because I didn't take a stand on the Vietnam War I got hit from both sides," Graham said. "Sometimes I got a few cat calls. But it was nothing like the politicians. Poor Hubert Humphrey. He's one of the sweetest men that ever lived. He'd go into auditoriums and have to defend Johnson's policy in Vietnam and get into all kinds of trouble."

About his middle-of-the-road stance on the Moral Majority, he said, "There again, I go down the middle and get slapped from both sides." But Graham has come to realize that is the way it must be: he is an evangelist, not a politician. He is good at one; he wisely wishes to remain distant from the other.

"Either Communism must die or Christianity must die because it is actually a battle between Christ and the anti-Christ."

— Rev. Billy Graham, 1954

"I also feel we ought to soften our rhetoric. We share this globe with a lot of countries. I don't think we're going to be successful in making every nation democratic."

— Rev. Billy Graham, 1982

Graham obviously has softened his own rhetoric against communism. And even though he is wary of entering into political issues, he has found one movement he frequently praises: nuclear disarmament. "I've been interested in disarmament for a long time, but I didn't start speaking about it until four or five years ago," he said. "But the press didn't pick up on it until it became a popular, or unpopular, issue."

How does Graham reconcile his desire to stay away from politics with his preaching on living in a nuclear age? "There are certain issues — the peace issue, the race issue, abortion — I call moral issues," he said. "Unfortunately, they're often interpreted as political. I've taken my stand on all of those issues as the Bible has shown me."

Even before he removed a rope that separated blacks and whites at a crusade in Chattanooga in 1951, Graham had been a believer in civil rights. But in the last few years, Graham increasingly has spoken of society's other ills and shortcomings. He has expanded past the stereotypical evangelism and become more involved with human problems and suffering.

"Traveling throughout the world, like I have been fortunate to do, one sees for himself and talks to the people that know, and you realize one billion people are living below the starvation level," he said. "You realize as a Christian I have to do my part, however small that is."

Graham rarely speaks specifics; he doesn't see that as his role because it frequently would lead him into the forbidden land of politics. So he struggles, knowing his limitations, where he can and cannot tread.

But now, more than ever, Graham is serving to prick the consciences of his audience, to make them realize the problems around them and that they can do something about them. For a 63-year-old preacher whose evangelism only a few years ago was staid and predictable, that is quite an achievement. It is a rare person who continues to grow and expand, to realize his mistakes and improve from them, to push and prod himself to increase his awareness and to understand his limitations and stay within his boundaries; in short, to continually learn and learn again.

But then again, Billy Graham is a rare person.

John Drescher, a senior journalism and history major from Raleigh, is editor of The Daily Tar Heel.

Marines return to Lebanon, find Israelis gone

By CHIP WILSON

Begin OKs massacre probe

U.S. Marines returned to Lebanon for the third time Wednesday, and much to everyone's surprise, the Israeli forces finally withdrew from east and west Beirut. Earlier this week, Israeli officials had asserted they would remain in Lebanon. But heavy pressure from the Reagan administration and demonstrations inside Israel brought about their withdrawal from the heavily Christian eastern sectors of Beirut.

After intense pressure from Israeli citizens and his own cabinet, Menachem Begin agreed Tuesday to launch a full inquiry into the massacre of at least 340 Palestinian refugees in Beirut.

Begin first refused to conduct an internal investigation because it would look like an admission of Israeli guilt. He stung-armed his allies in parliament into going along with him. But intense pressure from across the Israeli political spectrum forced Begin to back down. An estimated 350,000 people — 10 percent of

State Nicholas Veliotos conceded Wednesday that American weapons may have been used in the massacre — but that, if so, the weapons were used without U.S. approval. Unfortunately, the 300 or so Palestinians involved in the massacre are already dead.

What Veliotos implied was that Israel may have given American weapons to the Christian soldiers without permission.

Reagan on the economy

To no one's surprise, President Reagan chastised Democrats in Congress Tuesday for trying to exploit the nation's economic problems instead of passing the legislation he thinks will solve them. His comments came two days before the

Commerce Department released its Index of Leading Economic Indicators, which reported the first downturn in the economy in four months.

Reagan said the Democrats don't share his commitment to economic progress, contending they are emphasizing the negative side of the nation's economic situation for political gain. That's politics, Ronnie.

There certainly wasn't any good news in the Commerce Department's report. It said initial unemployment compensation claims soared to a record level in mid-September. At the same time, factory orders for consumer goods and in building permits for new construction declined.

Most economic analysts said the new

results were not surprising, but conceded they were discouraging because the indicators usually are an accurate barometer of future economic conditions.

Wallace again?

After conveniently forgetting his past segregationist views, George Wallace moved closer Tuesday toward reclaiming the Alabama governorship. He defeated Lt. Gov. George McMillan for the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

McMillan, a moderate who had the endorsement of such black leaders as Coretta Scott King and the Rev. Jesse Jackson, had predicted he would upset Wallace. He campaigned by pointing out Wallace characterized "the politics of the past" and said the former governor gave Alabama a negative image.

Wallace faces a stiff challenge from Republican candidate Emory Folmar, the mayor of Montgomery, who has a well-financed campaign and a broad base of support.

Congressman arrested in Afton

The controversy over the dumping of toxic PCBs in Warren County received further national exposure with the arrest of Congressional Delegate Walter Fauntroy, D-District of Columbia. He joined more than 100 other protestors who were arrested Monday for attempting to block dump trucks from entering and leaving the landfill site near Afton.

Fauntroy, a non-voting member of Congress, has vowed to launch a full congressional inquiry into why the state chose to locate the 25-acre site in Warren County, which has a high black population and the state's lowest per-capita income level.

The state's cleanup of the PCB-tainted soil from 210 miles of North Carolina roadways is running slightly ahead of schedule. Officials say the dump is more than half-full and that the cleanup should be complete within three weeks.

Evangelist in Chapel Hill

The Rev. Billy Graham came to Chapel Hill this week to proclaim his message of Christian salvation. But in his opening lecture Monday, he laced his words with a stern warning about the potential of a nuclear holocaust.

"We are on the verge of a nuclear Armageddon," Graham told a Carmichael Auditorium audience estimated at 5,000. "Are we capable of making a moral about-face in time to save ourselves?"

Graham also confirmed that he would visit Eastern Europe later this month on a mission he described as religious, rather than political.

Graham ends his five-night lecture series tonight; his topic — "Reason to Live" — is the theme of the entire crusade.

Chip Wilson, a senior journalism and political science major from Gastonia, is editorial assistant for The Daily Tar Heel.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

President Reagan said at a news conference Tuesday that the multinational peace-keeping mission, which includes troops from Italy and France, would remain in Beirut until the Lebanese government took full control and became "able to preserve full order."

While Israeli unity has fallen apart in the wake of last week's massacre of Palestinian refugees, Moslems and Christians have joined in support of Amin Gemayel, their new Lebanese president. Although he represents the Phalangist Party, which has long been at odds with the Palestinians, his rapport with both his fellow Christians and the Moslems in Lebanon may be the link needed to establish the long-needed peace treaty.

the Israeli population — attended an anti-Begin rally in Tel Aviv last weekend.

Israeli Supreme Court president Yitzhak Kahan will name a three-member panel to conduct the investigation. Kahan promised to name the panel by today and indicated he probably would head the inquiry.

The investigation will center on why Israeli soldiers allowed the Christian terrorists into the refugee camp. Defense minister Ariel Sharon admitted earlier that he made the decision to let the militiamen into the camps to remove Palestinian guerrillas. But he said he did not expect the massacre. Right.

The investigation could also involve the United States. Assistant Secretary of

