

Warped

by Scott McCullar



SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



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To Russia with religion: second visit for Graham

United Press International
MOSCOW — The Rev. Billy Graham returned to Moscow Sunday for a 12-day tour and defended his controversial statement made during a 1982 Soviet trip that there was "a measure of religious freedom" in the officially atheistic nation.
 The American evangelist, upon arrival at Moscow's airport, told reporters he had been misinterpreted two years ago during his first trip to the Soviet Union to preach.
 "I said then that I found a measure of religious freedom in the Soviet Union, more than the average American has been led to believe," Graham said. "I still hold to that."
 "People said I was naive and was not fully briefed about the Soviet Union but that was not true. I was

woefully misinterpreted."
 The remark cost the 65-year-old Baptist preacher some credibility but he made a comeback in Britain earlier this summer when he addressed huge crowds in several provincial cities and, despite fatigue and illness, pressed ahead with a trip to South Korea.
 He also accepted another invitation to the Soviet Union from Russian Orthodox and Baptist churches, which asked him to visit Moscow, Leningrad, Tallin and Novosibirsk in Siberia.
 Graham will be allowed to preach — but only inside churches — in the Soviet Union, where there are between 500,000 and 1 million Baptists and as many as 60 million Orthodox. Asked in London whether he was

concerned the churches would be packed with KGB security agents, Graham replied: "No, they are the people I'm trying to reach."
 Asked if he hoped to convert Soviet citizens, Graham replied that "whether you call it conversion or re-dedication," he hoped they would receive Christ into their hearts.
 Graham was greeted at the airport by Metropolitan Filaret of Minsk, a senior member of the Russian Orthodox hierarchy and by Andrei Klimenko, president of the All Union Council of Evangelical Christian-Baptist Churches.
 Both Orthodox and Baptists have been affected by official restrictions on religious practice, which range from harassment to overcrowded churches.

Inmates paroled too early

United Press International
DALLAS — Every month some Texas prisoners go free before their sentence is served because officials do not enforce a law that requires felons who used deadly weapons to serve at least a third of their sentences, a newspaper reported.
 The early release of prisoners who committed violent crimes stems from a record keeping problem that prison officials concede they routinely overlook, reported the Dallas Times Herald in a story published Sunday.

State representatives passed a law in August 1977 that required violent criminals to serve at least a third of their sentences and have extensive supervision upon release.
 The law applied to all inmates whose crimes were committed after the law was passed.

However, incomplete prison records are allowing some inmates to be released early and allowing others to avoid the close supervision lawmakers intended.

Prison officials do not have an accurate count of the number of such violations but concede they happen frequently, the Times Herald reported.

During the past five months, at least 21 armed robbers or other criminals who used deadly weapons since 1977 were paroled earlier than the law allows, the newspaper reported.

Prison officials say the lack of standardized county criminal records and limited personnel prevent them from contacting state courts to obtain the dates of inmates' crimes if the data is missing from prison files.

"That would be the logical thing to do," said S.O. Woods, director of classification for the Texas Department of Corrections. "But I don't have the staff to do that."

The unwarranted releases — and the explanation given for them — do not sit well with some Texas officials.

State District Judge Ron Chapman of Dallas, who recently alerted parole officials that they were about to release a murderer four years early, said Woods' explanation "doesn't impress me very much."

He said parole and prison officials "are kind of making a farce of the entire (sentencing) process ... by ignoring the law as it's written in Austin."

"Any time a public official or agency is not following the law, it's a problem," John Byrd, the executive director of the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, said he would study the cases of premature releases found in the Times Herald study and issue warrants to re-imprison any former inmates he believed were paroled before they were legally eligible.

"Maybe we need to be more precise in this particular area, but I'm assuming at this point that there's not a major problem here," Byrd said.

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Freshmen and Sophomore photos for the 1985 **Aggieland** yearbook will be taken at the Yearbook Associates office Sept. 10-Oct.12. The office is located at 1700 S. Kyle behind Culpepper Plaza. Photos will also be taken at the Pavilion Oct. 15-26. Both studios are open weekdays only, 8:30-4:30 (closed 12-1).