

State and Local

Love should be spelled G-I-V-E, Christian speaker tells students

By Frank Smith
Senior Staff Writer

After being introduced, he strode across the floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum, escorted by five members of the Ross Volunteers. He stopped just past the midcourt line, and everyone applauded.

Though many had seen him before, surely more than one person in the crowd must have been thinking, "So, that's Josh." And Josh it was.

Josh McDowell, the Christian speaker and author who draws large crowds of college students with his reputation and catchy advertising blitzes, brought his unique style to Texas A&M Tuesday night.

It was the second of a two-night stand in College Station for McDowell, a traveling lecturer with the Campus Crusade for Christ. On the preceding night in Rudder Auditorium, he had spoken on "The Great Resurrection — Hoax?"

But Tuesday, the topic was "Maximum Sex," and students filled roughly two-thirds of G. Rollie White Coliseum.

And what he had to say, among other things, was that "The main purpose of sex is for a unity factor. Procreation comes secondly."

And, "A fulfilled sex life is more the result of a good relationship, not the cause of it."

And, "The most important sex organ is the mind."

And, "True love always initiates protection and provision."

And, "We have not been through a sexual revolution. We have been through a revolution in the search for intimacy."

Through it all, McDowell emphasized the importance he attaches to a relationship with Jesus Christ.

McDowell outlined three different attitudes to the audience — "I love you if," "I love you because," and "I love you. Period." He emphasized the importance of having the latter — an unconditional type of love that he said is spelled "G-I-V-E."

He said those with that giving type of love are more likely than not to be "Christ-centered."

McDowell punctuated his comments with flailing arms and a sometimes-soft, sometimes-shrieking voice. He laced his presentation with jokes, but assumed a more serious tone plenty of times during the course of his 90-minute presentation — especially when talking about Christ.

And that, basically, was Josh.



Photo by Tracy Staton
Christian speaker Josh speaks to A&M students Tuesday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum on the subject of "Maximum Sex."

Officials hopeful prisons will remain open another day

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas prison officials said Tuesday the system would continue to remain open after the number of prisoner releases stayed close with admissions, holding the population barely under a court-mandated limit.

"We will be open for business as usual tomorrow," Department of Corrections spokesman Charles Brown said Tuesday.

At least 120 releases were expected Tuesday while officials admitted 132 inmates, Brown said.

On Monday, traditionally a slow day for admissions, 55 inmates arrived, less than the 80 officials were projecting.

Twenty-one were released. The result was a population of 38,238, or 94.68 percent.

On Sunday, it was 94.58 percent.

Brown cautioned, however, that it would be difficult to predict the day-to-day fluctuations for releases and admissions.

The capacity was set in 1983 after a federal judge ordered officials to take steps to reduce crowding in Texas prisons.

Inmate population in the 26-unit system, the nation's second largest behind California, exceeded the 95-percent capacity Friday, forcing officials to refuse new inmates.

Paroles issued over the weekend

dropped the inmate count below the limit, allowing the system to reopen Monday.

As part of a prison reform order, U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice ordered the prison system to reduce crowding.

The Legislature passed a law setting the 95 percent capacity limit in 1983.

Justice already has issued a contempt order against the corrections department, saying the agency failed to live up to agreements made in 1980 to improve inmates' living conditions and staffing in the prisons.

The judge gave the prison system until March 31 to meet the standards or risk fines of up to \$800,500 a day.

Price of oil unlikely to fall much in 1987

AUSTIN (AP) — Oil prices will probably not decline in 1987 and drilling activity likely will increase, an Exxon Co. spokesman said Tuesday.

Gregory Davis of Houston was one of six industry representatives who appeared before the Railroad Commission at its monthly statewide allowable hearing.

The commission routinely set the oil production factor at 100 percent, a pattern that started over 14 years ago. As usual, the large East Texas Field was restricted to 86 percent production to avoid possible waste.

Davis submitted Exxon's February nomination for Texas crude oil at 235,000 barrels a day, which is 5,400 barrels a day less than January.

Nominations for Texas crude in February totaled 2,016,389 barrels a day, a decrease of 27,801 barrels a day from this month.

Vietnam memorial brings memories to veteran

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — When Roy Benavidez first saw the new Vietnam Memorial in San Antonio he heard echoes of a distant war mixed with memories of his buddies who stood by him in moments of mortal danger.

The memorial statue is of a kneeling soldier looking toward the sky while holding a fallen friend. For Benavidez, a Green Beret who earned the Medal of Honor, the sculpted figures recall a time of struggle and pain.

"It was an eerie feeling," he said. "I could hear the rotors of helicopters behind me. It just brings back a lot of memories."

It's been nearly 20 years since Benavidez knew combat in Vietnam, but there is a lin-

gering ache from wounds he suffered there. And there's a powerful feeling of kinship for others who also fought in America's longest war and returned to an uncaring nation.

"What keeps me going is wanting to help my buddies, those Vietnam veterans who think society completely neglected them," he said. "I keep getting letters from veterans thanking me for standing up and helping them. I haven't done anything that my buddies would not have done for me."

It was what Benavidez did for his buddies in combat that earned him the nation's highest honor for valor.

On May 2, 1968, near Loc Ninh, Vietnam, enemy fire downed U.S. helicopters and trapped eight soldiers in the wreckage.

With mortar and bullets crackling about him, and enemy closing for hand-to-hand combat, Benavidez pulled the eight from the disabled craft and helped them into a rescue chopper. He was shot in the abdomen, back, thigh, head and arms. But he managed to rescue his buddies.

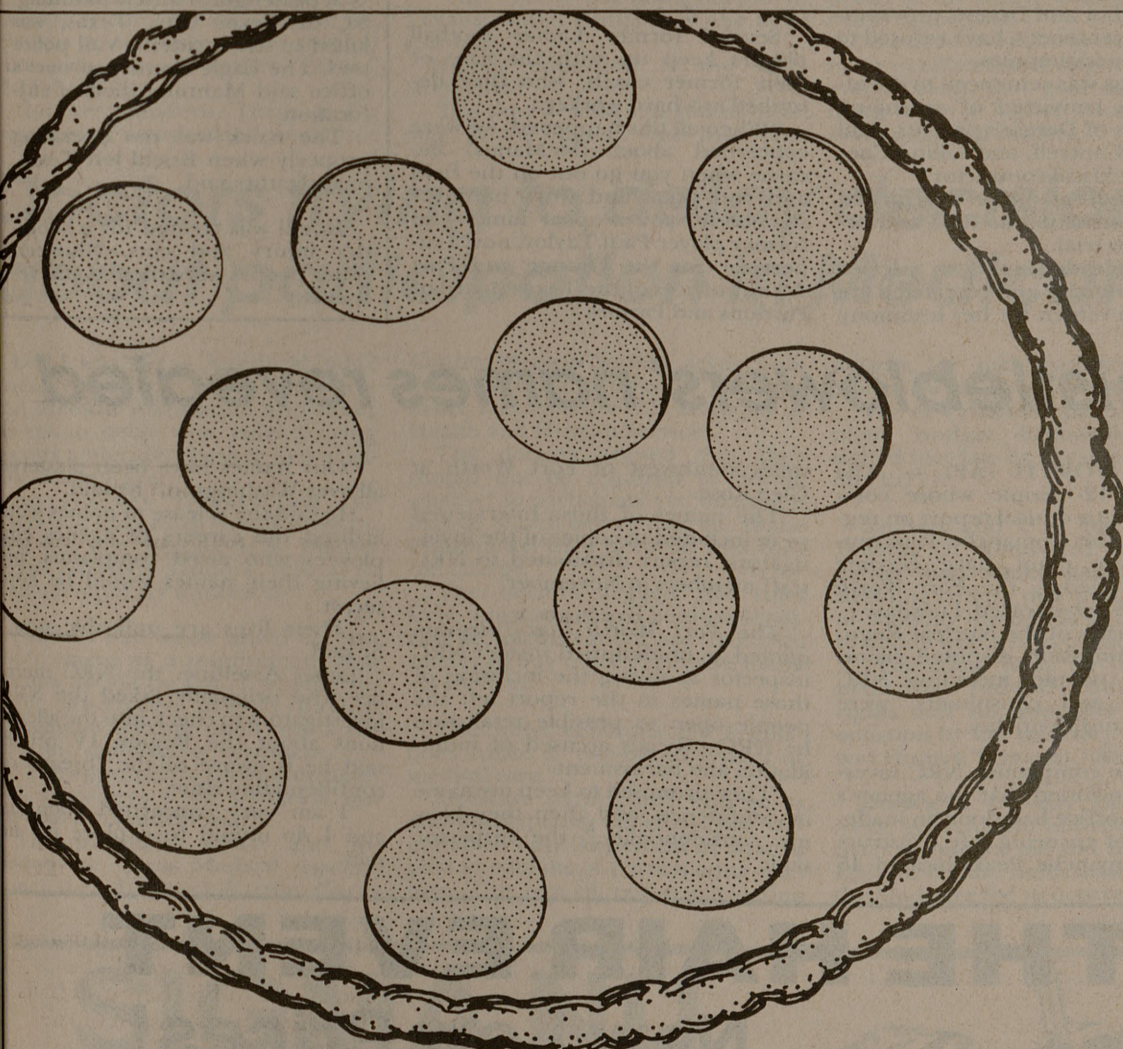
"The real heroes are the ones who gave their lives for their country," he said. "I don't like to be called a hero. I just did what I was trained to do."

Roy Benavidez' battles were not over.

Not long after receiving praise and a medal from President Reagan, the government tightened up on Social Security benefits. Disability payments for Benavidez and for some 350,000 other Americans were cut off.

The retired staff sergeant once more battled government bureaucracy and, once more, he won for himself and his buddies. His disability benefit was restored in 1983.

The retired soldier spends hours now talking to students of patriotism, hoping to reach all of the new generation and to encourage them "to help perpetuate Americanism."

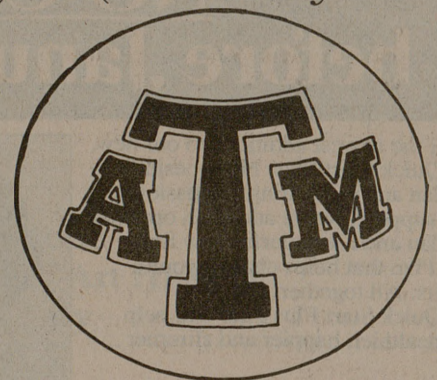


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